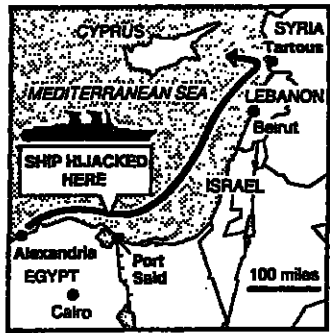


Two hostages on hijacked ship feared murdered

From Robert Fisk, Cairo

In an act of armed piracy unparalleled in recent Middle East history, up to 12 Palestinian gunmen were last night holding hostage 450 passengers and crew - including at least six British women - on board the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro as it steamed from the Syrian coast to Cyprus after the hijackers had reportedly killed two of the dozen American passengers believed to be on board.



Last night, it became apparent that the gunmen were also holding hostage the very future of the Middle East peace process. Their hijacking - and the killing of the passengers - dealt a grave blow to the surviving credibility of Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, who for the second time in two weeks - was forced to deny his involvement in a series of brutal murders while sitting impotently in Tunis near the bombed-out ruins of his own headquarters.

From both Europe and the Middle East yesterday, there came strenuous PLO denials of responsibility. Arab leaders generally accepted them, but neither Arafat nor any other Arab seemed able to influence the Palestinians on the cruise liner as it crossed the eastern Mediterranean, shadowed by Italian warships and plotted by the US Sixth Fleet.

The Beirut port radio received a brief call from the hijackers last night, saying that they wanted to negotiate directly with Israel for the release of Palestinian prisoners. One of the Palestinian gunmen shouted over his radio: "We

on board then killed two of their passengers. In the early evening, Pietro Cordone, the Italian Charge D'Affaires in Damascus, was summoned to the Syrian Foreign Ministry and told that the hijackers had claimed to have murdered two Americans on the ship. Western diplomats in the Syrian capital said that there was no confirmation of this, although the Italian authorities were taking a deeply pessimistic view of the possible outcome to the drama.

Earlier, one of the hijackers has told the Egyptian port

authorities at Port Said that he would kill "the British" first if his demands were not met.

After seeking Mr Arafat's help in rescuing the passengers, the Italians formally requested the Syrians to refuse any negotiations with the gunmen. "We are aligning ourselves with the American position," Mr Cordone said in Damascus. "That is not to negotiate with terrorists."

The Voice of Lebanon, an energetic but not always accurate Christian radio station broadcasting from Beirut, reported that it had monitored transmissions between the hijackers and Syrian officials in Tartus. According to the radio, the gunmen had demanded talks with four ambassadors from Britain, the US, West Germany and Italy - insisting that they should approach the passenger liner on a boat bearing Red Cross markings.

Reports that a boat manned by Arafat's PLO men had set out to rendezvous with the 23,629-ton Italian ship turned out to be untrue. The hijackers' demands - for the release of 50 Palestinians imprisoned in Tartus, some for murder, others taken from boats travelling from Cyprus to Lebanon - were reportedly not even discussed at an Israeli Cabinet meeting yesterday. The Italians never asked the Israelis to consider the matter.

After 24 hours at sea, however, the 119 passengers and almost 330 crew on board must have been under terrible strain as the ship, having left the Egyptian

Continued on back page, col 4

Italy searches for a peaceful way out of damaging crisis

From Our Own Correspondent, Rome

Italy yesterday pushed for a peaceful solution of the Achille Lauro hijacking during a series of contacts with the PLO. Middle East governments and Nato allies that began on Monday night.

"We are working and we will work so that everything may be resolved for the best; we are trying to avoid a tragedy," Signor Bettino Craxi, the Prime Minister, said.

While the armed forces have been placed on alert, military moves by Italy have been strictly limited and surrounded by secrecy. The Government's view is that force should be used only as a last resort.

Meanwhile, the Special Branch has been examining the list of passengers who boarded the Achille Lauro at Genoa, Naples, Syracuse and Alexandria in an attempt to discover how the terrorists got on board without creating suspicion, apparently with supplies of explosives and arms.

Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Foreign Minister, met the ambassadors of Israel and the United States, as well as Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, a Syrian-born prelate who was once jailed by the Israelis on charges of smuggling weapons to Palestinians. One of the first people he turned to was Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman.

Italian officials say Mr Arafat gave assurances that his group was not involved in the action and offered to help.



Captain Gerardo de Rosa, in command of the Achille Lauro

British women crew members named

By Our Foreign Staff

Six British women crew members held on the hijacked Achille Lauro were named by the Foreign Office last night.

At least one other British woman is believed to be on board. Another 22 Britons, all passengers, would have been on board but for the fact that they had gone to Cairo for an excursion, where they were staying last night at the Concorde and Hilton hotels.

The British women named yesterday are Joan Gillen, a hairdresser, and five members of an entertainment group, Lesley Tubby, Louise Barr,

British passengers on the 11-

day cruise booked through the Chandris shipping group. A spokesman for Chandris said the owners of the ship were responsible for arranging repatriation of passengers in Cairo. He thought they would fly home within the next day or two.

There was considerable confusion Cairo last night over the nationalities of passengers still on the liner. Unofficial reports from Spain said there were citizens from Britain, the US, Italy, France, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Spain and Peru.



Mr Grant addressing the meeting outside Tottenham town hall yesterday.

Police given a good hiding, says Grant

By Robin Young and Richard Evans

"The police were to blame for what happened on Sunday night and what they got was a bloody good hiding," Councilor Bernie Grant, leader of Haringey Borough Council told a crowd outside Tottenham town hall yesterday.

Whoops, cheers and some waving of fists greeted his remarks.

Mr Grant was asked afterwards about his council's attitude to the police presence on the estate, and explained that the council's official position was that they wanted the police withdrawn, but had no power to order them away.

The police kept a close watch on the open air meeting attended by about 250 people, predominantly young West Indians, who demanded the withdrawal of the police from the estate, scene of Sunday night's riot.

The police had been given a warning that the demonstrators might seek to march on Tottenham police station. They were prepared to stop them if that was attempted. In the event no march was made, and the meeting dispersed after a series of speeches.

Hunt for killers, page 2

US to aid Third World lending by easing rules

From Sarah Hogg and David Smith, Seoul

American banking regulations will be eased to encourage more Third World lending, Mr James Baker, US Treasury Secretary indicated at a news conference here yesterday.

Mr Baker was launching his three-point programme to deal with the international debt problem, involving \$20 billion (£14 billion) from the banks and \$9 billion from the World Bank.

Mr Baker's plan, as finally outlined to the finance ministers, aid officials and bankers gathered for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank yesterday, envisaged:

● The adoption by debtor governments of comprehensive policies to promote growth, correct external imbalances and reduce inflation.

● A continued central role for the IMF, but also "increased and more effective" lending by the World Bank and other lending agencies. Mr Baker said he envisaged that lending to the 15 principal middle income

debtor countries would not rise from about \$18 billion during the past three years to \$27 billion during the next three.

● Increased lending by the private banks. Mr Baker said he was looking for net new lending to this same group of countries to increase by about 2½ per cent a year, or \$20 billion over the next three years. This would reverse the recent fall in bank lending to these countries.

The fourth element in Mr Baker's original package, a scheme combining the proceeds of the IMF Trust Fund with World Bank and other aid money to create a \$5 billion fund for the poorest countries, fell foul of opposition from other major governments participating in the IMF meetings.

But Mr Baker said he could not "let parochial resistance or unfounded suspicions block an idea that can significantly help the poorest countries", and he indicated he would be pressing the plan at a later stage.

Page 21

Tebbit appeal for strengthening of national unity

From Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent, Blackpool

Mr Norman Tebbit yesterday told the Conservative Party that it could win the next election with an appeal for national unity based on a crackdown on lawlessness and a pledge to create a property-owning democracy.

In a Blackpool party conference speech which was rewarded with a three-minute standing ovation, the party chairman reinforced his rank-and-file popularity with a scathing attack on "an extreme left" Labour Party and an opportunist Alliance which was in "two minds" on virtually every issue.

Mr Tebbit said that the Tories had to ensure that Labour's comrades were not allowed to get their hands upon the throat of the nation, and although he said that Mr Neil Kinnock's Bournemouth attack on the extremists had been good, his condemnation would mean little unless he acted to expel them from the party.

But he also said that the Conservatives had to build upon their achievements of the past six years. "We have much more work to do."

"To win the next election we must have a vision of exactly the sort of Britain, the sort of society, we intend to create. I have no doubts about that."

"Above all it must be a Britain in which we reestablish and strengthen the unity which has always been the very strength of our nation."

Unity, he said, had to be based upon mutual respect for each other and for institutions which had served the nation so well in the past - not least the rule of law upheld by the courts, judiciary and the police.

Mr Tebbit said that although they wanted to defeat unemployment, there were no short cuts. "There are no glib magic solutions in our vision."

But he also said: "We must work towards the material success and the social stability that can come only in what Iain Macleod and Harold Macmillan described in that magic phrase as a property-owning democracy."

Increased home ownership, private pension investment and the spread of personal share ownership, with people sharing in the benefits of success, could provide the stability and the

the unions and industry, ministers will shortly be meeting to consider options for retaining the scheme while reducing its final cost rather than pressing ahead with plans to phase it out in 1987.

Decisions have yet to be taken, but ministers have clearly been moved by the proposal from pension funds.

Continued on back page, col 1

Conference reports, page 4

Cabinet rethinking pledge to abolish Serps

From Philip Webster, Political Reporter, Blackpool

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, yesterday gave the first public confirmation that the Government is reconsidering its commitment to abolish the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps), the central feature of its review of the welfare state.

After fierce criticism of the proposal from pension funds,

the unions and industry, ministers will shortly be meeting to consider options for retaining the scheme while reducing its final cost rather than pressing ahead with plans to phase it out in 1987.

Decisions have yet to be taken, but ministers have clearly been moved by the proposal from pension funds.

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THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow

In from the cold Why Parkinson should be rehabilitated by Bernard Levin Modern text James Fenton reviews the New Jerusalem Bible Top scores The season's final first-class cricket averages

Portfolio

There were four winners in The Times Portfolio competition yesterday. Miss Jeanette Kaye of Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire, Mr Charles Addey of London, Mrs Alison Smith of London and Mr Minaz Khan of Wembley, Middlesex each receive £500. Portfolio list, page 24; how to play, information service, back page.

Unita seeks military aid from US

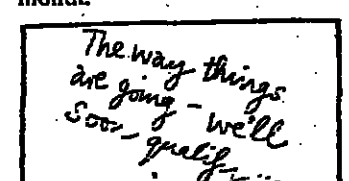
The Unita guerrilla leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, has said he would like American military aid and hopes it will be forthcoming after the recent repeal of the Clark Amendment, which prohibited the United States from becoming involved in the Angolan civil war.

Princess tells of TV drugs fear

The Princess of Wales revealed her fears for children, and in particular her elder son, Prince William, who are exposed to television programmes featuring drugs.

Beirut envoy

Mr John Gray, aged 49, is to be the new Ambassador to Lebanon in succession to Sir David Miers, who leaves Beirut next month.



The way things are going - we'll soon be gully.



Atoll warning

French Navy officers boarded the Greenpeace to warn the protest ship's crew to stay out of the 12-mile zone around the Mururoa Atoll nuclear test site.

Ballot meeting

Engineering union leaders are to attend an emergency TUC meeting about their defiance of the policy which forbids accepting state money for ballots.

British protest

Nigeria was told in an official statement of Britain's concern at the severe sentences imposed on two British engineers by a Lagos court.

Special Report

Pension fund managers are administering assets valued at £125 billion and have become a powerful force in the City. Fund investments are often decisive in takeover battles. Pages 15-18

Leader page, 13 Letters: On riots, from Mr A. Rose, and others; jobs, from Mr J. T. Green, and others

Leading articles: Pensions; US and the world court; criminal libel

Features, pages 10-12 Baker's rates dilemma; the Palestinian diversion to terrorism. Spectrum: a guide to the Commonwealth. Fashion: back to the Sixties

Classified, 29-34 La crème de la crème; secretary; property

Obituary, page 14 Dr Trevor Thomas, Mr Clive Sullivan

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Crosswords	10-16	Wills	14
Diary	12		

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The Tottenham riot

Squad of 60 officers in hunt for mob who murdered constable

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A squad of 60 officers has been set up in north London to investigate the murder of Police Constable Keith Blakelock during the Tottenham riot on Sunday.

Operating from Southgate police station, the officers are trying to trace members of a mob of more than 100 who swept down on PC Blakelock and other officers as they protected firemen coping with a burning shop.

A knife was found at the scene of the murder but the police believe that other weapons, including a machete and an axe, may have been used. PC Blakelock received wounds in the neck and chest when part of the mob fell upon him.

Det Supt Graham Melvin, of Scotland Yard's C1 serious crime squad, who is leading the investigation, yesterday appealed for help from the Broadwater Farm Estate where the officer died.

The estate was reported quiet yesterday after a heavy police presence overnight.

The headlines describing PC Blakelock's death were studied yesterday in scores of London police stations in a mood of sadness and anger.

For some officers the death of a colleague during public disorder came as no surprise. They felt it had been only a matter of time.

In a south London station,

where officers tackled trouble in Brixton and Peckham a week ago, there was a sense of resignation and a sense of "there but for the grace of God..."

A CID officer said: "It is an occupational hazard to face violence but the method of his death was completely out of order. We could understand a person being stabbed once or twice in a disturbance but to be taken apart by a mob is completely inhuman."

One officer, a former soldier in Northern Ireland, was critical of the way the Tottenham riot had been handled. Others were puzzled or alarmed at reports of strategies which left the police apparently standing as targets for hours on end.

If the aim had been to contain the rioters on the estate and prevent them from breaking out to cause more damage, where had they gone when the police finally moved in, a young constable asked.

An older colleague with experience of present police public order training said: "I would hope the lesson has been learnt and the police act toughly and quickly. This is an unbearable price to pay for inefficiency. If there had been a bigger police presence more quickly on the scene it might have prevented things coming to the state that they did."

The crowds should have been

dispersed rapidly as they formed. Officers should not have stood behind shields but moved forward constantly.

Among police on duty in Tottenham yesterday there was unanimous opposition to the suggested introduction of water cannon or plastic bullets in the event of further disturbances (Robin Young writes).

"I would be totally opposed to that," one senior officer said. "I'm opposed to all sorts of violence and horrified by what I have already seen."

"I feel like a dinosaur because I joined the force 23 years ago looking for some excitement. Now I feel I have had more excitement than anyone could need, and I am just looking forward to the day I retire."

"I grew out of the need for excitement years ago, and I hope these young people may do the same. But what are the next generation after that going to be like? Perhaps this country will pull itself together, but I really cannot see any hope."

A younger constable who was on duty on Sunday night said: "I had been in disturbances before and involved in some of the trouble on picket lines. It is bad enough during the day but believe me it is absolutely bloody terrifying at night."

"I don't think water cannon would have been much use. They had the buildings to hide in. God knows what they would have fired at us if we had used plastic bullets, and CS gas would only have forced law-abiding residents out of their flats into the fray."

His colleague, whose first experience of large-scale civil disturbance had come on Sunday night, said: "It certainly seems strange to be on nodding acquaintance with apparently friendly folk one day, and to hear them shouting abuse while their kids chuck petrol bombs at you the next."

Another officer based in Tottenham said: "No matter how hard we try at community relations we cannot relate to thugs, vandals and lunatic tearaways, and it seems we have plenty of them here."

Police Constable Stuart Patt, aged 25, who was shot in the stomach during the Tottenham riot, said yesterday that he was keen "to get back on the streets."

PC Patt, due to be a father for the first time in a month, was speaking from his bed in the Whitlington hospital, north London, where he is recovering after surgery.

Mr John Domaille, assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, is to visit Mrs Cherry Groce, wounded during a police raid on her home in Brixton, south-west London, a week ago, in hospital today.

It will be the first time Mr Domaille, leading the Police Complaints Authority investigation into the shooting, has seen Mrs Groce. She was severely injured when an inspector fired his revolver as he led a raid in search of her son.



Mr John Lawrence (right) joining the royal portraitists with these studies of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, released yesterday to coincide with their visit to the Caribbean for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Mr Lawrence spends six months of every year in the Middle East and the Palace had admired his portrait of Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

He specializes in portraiture and industrial photography.



A black politician who is 'on his own'

By Hugh Clayton

Mr Bernie Grant, the Haringey council leader at the centre of a dispute about the policing of the Tottenham riots, is arguably the most influential black politician in Britain.

There have been black mayors in Labour authorities such as Lewisham and Lambeth, but Mr Grant is the first black to win the less ceremonial and more powerful post of leader.

He has a good chance of becoming an MP at the next general election, having won the nomination for the Tottenham seat held by Mr Norman Atkinson, the former Labour Party treasurer who held the constituency in 1983 with a majority of more than 9,000.

Mr Grant's success in toppling Mr Atkinson, who has been MP for Tottenham for more than 20 years, underlines the delicacy of his position in the local community. He regards his condemnation of police tactics in Tottenham as a legitimate response to the fears and concerns of black people in the area.

He is a strong supporter of black sections in the Labour Party and refuses to be classed as a standard product of Labour municipal politics. "I am quite different, I think," he said yesterday. "I think I am on my own."

"I see things from a working class perspective and from a black perspective, which is a further dimension. Young black people do not get a chance of putting their views in society. I see myself as fulfilling that sort of role and articulating their views."

A forceful and affable father of three, Mr Grant is certain that this year's rates rebellion will be a handful of councils will be revived next year, although in a different form. There would be a "clear battle" between his council and the Government over spending plans.

The collapse of last year's campaign of defiance brought him to national prominence as the first black council leader after years of trade union activism and campaigning against racism in London.

Mr Grant was born in Guyana and has spent slightly more than half of his 41 years in Britain, mostly in London. He served briefly as deputy leader of Haringey council three years ago but refused to stand for the post again when the council agreed to let the National Front meet in a local school.

He became leader this year after some Labour councillors had voted with Conservatives to surrender to government rate demands. "I do not think the divisions have yet been healed," he said yesterday in his office in the Haringey civic centre.

"What we are trying to do is to learn to live together and come out with united policies. I do not think there will be any big bust-ups in the Labour group."

Another woman, who had lived on the estate for 16 years and was married to a black man by whom she had three children, said: "There was no problem between the blacks and whites then. Now we're the ones who are disadvantaged because we have no say."

"When I came we got together, black and white, and we built the bar at the social club and everyone used to drink in there and hold parties. Now the social club is just young blacks, I'd never go in there now."

"There was a time we had milkmen too. Then they started coming in floats with wire round them, and still they got beaten up and had their takings stolen, and all the milk was taken off the doorsteps. There isn't a dairy would think of delivering here now. It's the same with cabs. You can't get a mini-cab to come near the estate."

She said that muggings, burglaries, vandalism, had all increased over the past few months, culminating in a robbery attempt on the Post Office last week. Others talk of teenagers smashing windows and damaging cars.

One woman, aged 76 and crippled with arthritis, said: "I live right over the social club. Recently there have been parties with loud music going on late into the night, and crowds drinking outside, which we haven't had before. I had my invalid car smashed up several weeks ago, and got a new one, and that was wrecked on Sunday night."

Mr Jeffrey said: "Terry shielded me from the mob at great risk to himself." Both men were on duty during the riots in Tottenham.

The cause was given in written evidence by Dr R Saravanan, pathologist at Charing Cross Hospital, and read by the coroner who adjourned the inquest for four weeks.

There were no relatives of either family in court.

A second post-mortem examination of Mrs Jarrett will be

Labour crackdown on absent MPs

By Richard Evans

Labour's Shadow Cabinet agreed yesterday to launch an assault on the party's absentee MPs and the Alliance.

The battle plan for the forthcoming parliamentary session was hatched during a two-day meeting of Mr Neil Kinnock's team at Rottingdean, in East Sussex.

The crackdown against Labour MPs with a poor attendance and voting record in the Commons comes after the embarrassment last July when 17 MPs were absent from a crucial Commons vote on top people's pay which the Government just won - with a majority of 17.

It also coincides with the selection next week of a new chief whip, one of whose priorities will be to improve discipline within the parliamentary party. Nominations for the post closed yesterday with four candidates having been proposed. They are Mr Derek Foster, MP for Bishop Auckland, Mr Norman Hogg (Cumbria and Kilsyth), Mr John Evans (St Helens North), and Mr Peter Snape (West Bromwich East).

The mood of the Shadow Cabinet, meeting in the wake of last week's Labour conference, was said to have been "confident, buoyant and optimistic."

In discussing tactics against the Alliance, Mr Kinnock's team paid special attention to a recently completed book by a professor at the London School of Economics which profiles typical Liberal and SDP voters.

The Shadow Cabinet talks, which lasted until midnight on Monday, and continued yesterday until mid-afternoon, touched on wide-ranging policy issues.

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Man admits throwing a brick

By Richard Dowden

Leroy Smithson, aged 22, was the first person to be convicted for an offence during the Tottenham riots when he pleaded guilty yesterday to throwing a brick through a car window causing £88 damage.

Tottenham magistrates heard that Smithson, of Ponders End, Enfield, told the car owner: "Well it's the riots, mate."

A schoolboy, aged 15, charged with possessing a petrol bomb with intent to throw it, was charged under the instruction of the Director of Public Prosecutions with four more adults.

Paul Grant, aged 26, unemployed of Ponders End, charged with burglary at a tailor's shop and Mitchell Fennell, aged 20, unemployed of no fixed address, charged with possessing an offensive weapon, were remanded in custody until October 12.

Three other defendants, charged with burglary at a tailor's shop, were remanded in custody until October 12. They were charged with burglary at a tailor's shop, were remanded in custody until October 12.

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Community care with the Rastas

By Richard Dowden

The Broadwater Farm Estate in Tottenham is better endowed with community organizations than most.

The Broadwater Youth Association, founded after the troubles in 1981, has spawned a number of other groups and is now attempting to set up employment schemes in the cavernous parking bays beneath the block of flats.

Previously, there had been a tenants association and a social club but they were perceived by some blacks to be excluding them.

There are some white residents who see the rise of the youth association as a takeover of the estate by blacks but in the association's cafe about 15 to 20 pensioners, mainly white, are served lunch daily by young Rastafarians.

There is also a scheme to organize neighbourhood care so that elderly and handicapped people are seen by tenants on a rota basis.

In addition, the association has set up a fruit and vegetable cooperative shop, a hairdressing salon, a sewing workshop, a photography project, a fashion design project, a day-care centre, a mothers' group, a women's group and a pensioners' group. Most are funded by the Greater London and Haringey councils.

It was because I'm scared to, I don't go out after dark any more because there are crowds around."

Her friend, Mrs Toni Tait, said: "I never used to bother about walking around here, but then I got mugged under the car porte a couple of months ago. They pulled my shoulder nearly off and took my handbag and roughed me about a bit. But that was young kids that don't live here."

Mrs Renee Kelly, whose daughter Terese yesterday applied to move away from the estate after 10 years, criticized the council and the black-led youth association, and added that she too had been mugged six months ago. "The trouble is that in the past two or three years a small group of people

have taken everything over, they run the whole show."

White mothers on the estate regard Mrs Dolly Kiffin, the force behind the youth association, with a mixture of anger and admiration. "When she was away on holiday recently things got really bad because she runs everything. There is a tenants' association, with some whites on it, but they don't have any say any more. The council just talk to her, and what she says, that's what goes," Mrs Kelly said.

Her daughter said: "Recently it's got worse, more gangs out at night, people just hanging round. With three young children I just don't want it any more. I want to get out. I've even thought of squatting, just to get out quick, but that would probably be worse."

Another woman, who had lived on the estate for 16 years and was married to a black man by whom she had three children, said: "There was no problem between the blacks and whites then. Now we're the ones who are disadvantaged because we have no say."

"When I came we got together, black and white, and we built the bar at the social club and everyone used to drink in there and hold parties. Now the social club is just young blacks, I'd never go in there now."

"There was a time we had milkmen too. Then they started coming in floats with wire round them, and still they got beaten up and had their takings stolen, and all the milk was taken off the doorsteps. There isn't a dairy would think of delivering here now. It's the same with cabs. You can't get a mini-cab to come near the estate."

She said that muggings, burglaries, vandalism, had all increased over the past few months, culminating in a robbery attempt on the Post Office last week. Others talk of teenagers smashing windows and damaging cars.

One woman, aged 76 and crippled with arthritis, said: "I live right over the social club. Recently there have been parties with loud music going on late into the night, and crowds drinking outside, which we haven't had before. I had my invalid car smashed up several weeks ago, and got a new one, and that was wrecked on Sunday night."

Mr Jeffrey said: "Terry shielded me from the mob at great risk to himself." Both men were on duty during the riots in Tottenham.

Whites leave riot estate and blame outsiders for trouble

By Colin Hughes

Fifty families, mainly white, have applied for transfers from Broadwater Farm Estate, Tottenham, north London, the scene of Sunday night's rioting.

Some have lived there happily for more than a decade but have seen trouble developing in the wake of the riots at Handsworth, Toxteth and Brixton.

Several report having seen milk bottles in crates being filled with petrol by black youths who they knew were not local residents.

Mrs Doreen Weekes, a middle-aged white woman, said yesterday: "There used to be a time when kids would stop and help you to carry your shopping up in the lift, and you didn't mind going to the front door with them. Now I wouldn't

want it because I'm scared to, I don't go out after dark any more because there are crowds around."

Her friend, Mrs Toni Tait, said: "I never used to bother about walking around here, but then I got mugged under the car porte a couple of months ago. They pulled my shoulder nearly off and took my handbag and roughed me about a bit. But that was young kids that don't live here."

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The cause was given in written evidence by Dr R Saravanan, pathologist at Charing Cross Hospital, and read by the coroner who adjourned the inquest for four weeks.

There were no relatives of either family in court.

A second post-mortem examination of Mrs Jarrett will be

A black politician who is 'on his own'

By Hugh Clayton

Mr Bernie Grant, the Haringey council leader at the centre of a dispute about the policing of the Tottenham riots, is arguably the most influential black politician in Britain.

There have been black mayors in Labour authorities such as Lewisham and Lambeth, but Mr Grant is the first black to win the less ceremonial and more powerful post of leader.

He has a good chance of becoming an MP at the next general election, having won the nomination for the Tottenham seat held by Mr Norman Atkinson, the former Labour Party treasurer who held the constituency in 1983 with a majority of more than 9,000.

Mr Grant's success in toppling Mr Atkinson, who has been MP for Tottenham for more than 20 years, underlines the delicacy of his position in the local community. He regards his condemnation of police tactics in Tottenham as a legitimate response to the fears and concerns of black people in the area.

He is a strong supporter of black sections in the Labour Party and refuses to be classed as a standard product of Labour municipal politics. "I am quite different, I think," he said yesterday. "I think I am on my own."

"I see things from a working class perspective and from a black perspective, which is a further dimension. Young black people do not get a chance of putting their views in society. I see myself as fulfilling that sort of role and articulating their views."

A forceful and affable father of three, Mr Grant is certain that this year's rates rebellion will be a handful of councils will be revived next year, although in a different form. There would be a "clear battle" between his council and the Government over spending plans.

The collapse of last year's campaign of defiance brought him to national prominence as the first black council leader after years of trade union activism and campaigning against racism in London.

Mr Grant was born in Guyana and has spent slightly more than half of his

Princess fears drug scenes on television may have effect on children

By a Staff Reporter

The Princess of Wales spoke yesterday of her fears for children exposed to television programmes featuring drugs and in particular for her son, Prince William.

She made her remarks during a visit to the St Giles drug dependency unit in Camberwell, south-east London. Mrs Deirdre Hickey, chairwoman of the local Committee Against Drug Abuse, said the Princess had expressed her concern about such programmes as *Starsky and Hutch*, the American detective series, and *Bergerac*, a detective series set in the Channel Islands.

Mrs Hickey said that the dangerous information children picked up about drug and drug smuggling from watching television were what concerned the Princess. She had been worried about some of the things Prince William, aged three, said after seeing programmes in which smugglers could hide drugs in innocent things like teddy bears.

The Princess was among the first to endorse the message of BBC television's "Drugwatch" marathon during the summer: "Just Say No to Drugs".

Her visit to the St Giles unit, a tiny redbrick building attached to St Giles Hospital and serving some of the city's worst trouble areas, was in part preparation for her visit to the United States next month when she is to visit a drugs clinic in Washington with Mrs Nancy Reagan, wife of the President.

The Princess was said to be visibly shaken by her visit to St Giles, where eight patients and some of their relatives were on hand to talk to her. The unit has at present 150 regular patients and takes about 300 referrals annually. Her scheduled 45-minute visit extended to more than an hour after spending much of it talking to a drug addict aged 36.

The man, who has been a heroin addict for 12 years, told the Princess he used to spend £70 to £100 a day on his habit. He said afterwards: "She said, 'Where did you get the money from?' and I told her from stealing".

He continued: "She said, 'To get that sort of money you must be stealing from Harrods.' I said yes I did go to Harrods. The Princess was surprised and laughed; but I think it was a rather nervous laugh."

"I think she was quite shocked. In fact, I think she was shocked, period."

The Princess told staff at the unit that she also hopes to visit Heathrow Airport to see how drugs are brought into the country. Mr David Morgan, a psychologist, said that after discussing with patients the problems of broken families where children were left to roam the streets late at night, the Princess had said she found their plight "shocking and upsetting".

Most patients seen by the St Giles clinic, which is connected, unlike many in London, with an in-patient unit of 20 beds in Bexley hospital, are heroin users, although a substantial number use amphetamines. Other relatively common substances are barbiturates, tranquillisers, painkillers and cocaine, with some cannabis and solvent users.

A patient once referred to the clinic is assessed by a team that includes a psychiatrist, two doctors, a psychologist and nursing staff. Interviews to establish the history of drug abuse, family relationships and social circumstances, precede a physical examination.



Frances Ellis cuddling one of 21 sheep yesterday at an exhibition to mark 21 years of the International Wool Secretariat's Woolmark. The exhibition runs for three weeks at a store in Regent Street, London. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

Health union calls for Aids 'task force'

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

A permanent Aids "task force" should be set up by the Department of Health to combat the spread of the disease, with extra cash for medical staffing, counselling of sufferers and a public education programme, a health service union said yesterday.

The cost of caring for a predicted total of 3,000 patients with Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) by August 1987 will be £60 million, and much more will be needed for as many as 75,000 others who may then be carrying the virus, the National Union of Public Employees said.

The union is seeking a meeting with the Minister for Health, Mr Barney Hayhoe, to discuss its proposals, contained in a document entitled *Aids epidemic - Time for action*.

Dr Antony Pinching, senior lecturer in clinical immunology at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, one of three London hospitals treating Aids patients, said: "We must produce constructive responses, medically and socially, to cope with the disease."

"We need a substantial injection of medical staff on a long-term commitment."

Hospital staff caring for Aids patients were already overburdened with the work involved and were struggling to cope.

"There is a danger that other patients, with other diseases, will suffer from lack of care because of the commitment of staff needed to deal with Aids patients."

Mr Steve Williams, author of the union report and the representative of its nurses group at St Mary's, said: "It is totally unrealistic to expect trained junior and student nursing staff on busy general surgical and medical wards to be able to cope with the complex physical and psychological problems facing Aids patients."

Child sexual abuse 'now at epidemic proportions'

One in five British children suffers sexual or physical abuse, according to a leading child psychiatrist.

Mr David Pithers, of the National Children's Home, said that sexual abuse had reached "epidemic proportions" and was now more common than physical abuse.

Recent research by Mori suggested that one in ten children suffered sexual abuse. "But my own view is that it is twice that, one in five, who will be abused in this way", Mr Pithers, director of the home's centre for study and development of child care practice, said.

Blaming the epidemic on the breakdown of family life, he said that children were particularly vulnerable to abuse from stepfathers, live-in-lovers and other adults known to the child.

Warnings to avoid sexual approaches from strangers have become an accepted feature of school and parental guidance.

The National Children's Home yesterday announced the launch of a book series called *It's OK to Say No*, which aims to help children to avoid sexual approaches from known adults.

The basic message is for children to "say no" because, Mr Pithers argued, a rejection at the outset will often prevent an approach developing into more serious interference.

The books also advise the child to tell an adult they trust of any sexual incident which has already upset them.

The message is being put across by Billy the Bird, in the form of a colouring book for under-sevens and an activity book with puzzles and stories for children over seven.

The publishers, Peter Haddock, plan to have the books, which cost 79p, in the shops by November 19 and will be giving part of the proceeds to the National Children's Home and the joint sponsor of the book, Childwatch.

Ms Diane Core, founder of Childwatch, an organization set up to draw attention to child abuse, said: "Most parents find it very difficult to talk about child abuse or even admit it exists. They have to learn to talk about it for their children's sake."

Accused father killed himself

A father accused of partially blinding his baby son wrote a letter to his wife telling her he loved the children and could not face going to prison a few hours before he jumped to his death from a car park in Hammersmith, west London, an inquest was told yesterday.

Peter Brophy, aged 31, and his wife, Kathleen, aged 34, of Derwent Court, Hammersmith, were on their way to the Central Criminal Court when Mr Brophy took his wife to the eleventh floor of a multi-storey car park.

Mrs Brophy told the Hamersmith coroner, Dr John Burton, how her husband took off his coat and spectacles, kissed her and ran to the edge of the car park. He put his leg over the side and disappeared.

The coroner recorded that Mr Brophy had taken his own life.

Mr and Mrs Brophy's son, Michael, now aged 21 months, suffered caustic soda in his eyes when he was six months old and the couple denied ill-treating him. After the death of her husband charges against Mrs Brophy were dropped.

Wife killing 'not premeditated'

After hearing closing speeches yesterday by counsel for the defence and prosecution of Nicholas Boyce, charged with the murder of his wife, Christabel, the judge told the jury at the Central Criminal Court: "You may think one thing is certain - that what happened was not premeditated."

Pointing out that there was always the chance of Mr Boyce's young son waking up and coming into the room while he was head-butting his wife and strangling her, the Recorder of London, Sir James Miskin, QC, said: "If he had decided in advance to kill her, there would be so many better ways of doing it."

"In this case there is no dispute that that man is criminally responsible for killing his wife."

"The only question for you to decide is: is he guilty of murder or manslaughter?"

The judge said that if the jury were not sure that when Mr Brophy tightened the electrical flex round her neck for two minutes or so he intended to kill his wife or to cause her serious bodily harm, then he must be acquitted of murder and convicted of manslaughter.

"But if you are sure that he did intend to kill or at least cause serious harm, then you must consider provocation."

Mr Boyce, aged 37, a night cleaner and an economics graduate, of Roman Road, Bethnal Green, east London, denies murdering his wife, a former nanny to Lord Lucan's children, on January 13.

The prosecution says he dismembered her body in the bath, cooked parts of it to disguise them, and dumped them in plastic bags in several areas of London.

Mr Boyce has admitted killing her by head-butting and strangling, but he claims he was provoked during a furious argument.

In his closing speech Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC, for the prosecution, said: "Boyce is a man of substantial intelligence who was very much in charge of the situation who, in fact, killed her deliberately and coolly."

"Marriages break down and partners disagree. But an ordinary person does not resort to butting his wife with tremendous force then strangling her when she is defenceless. It is easy to make allegations about her in court - she is not here to dispute them."

In his final speech Mr Michael Wolkind for the defence, said provocation was at the heart of the case.

"You are examining a non-stop form of humiliation and degradation which drained every bit of self-respect from a grown man. He used to sneak home, terrified of his life."

Mr Wolkind said rules imposed on Mr Boyce included no sexual relations. He was not even allowed in the bed, regardless of whether his wife was there. He could not have a bath at home.

"Add to this she screamed abuse and accusations - could it not have worn down any person?"

"He finally broke in circumstances in which an ordinary man may also have done."

The trial was adjourned until today, when the judge will finish his summing up.

Support for women priests in new synod

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Supporters of women's ordination appear to have held on to their majority in the General Synod of the Church of England in this month's election, but not in such strength as to guarantee success.

Results received from more than half the dioceses by yesterday afternoon were ambiguous enough for both sides in the argument to claim they were satisfied.

Also expressing satisfaction yesterday were the doctrinal conservatives, who oppose the controversial views of the Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev David Jenkins.

The Movement for the Ordination of Women said yesterday: "We seem to be getting quite a lot of additional support."

But the Church Union, sworn opponents of women priests, confidently predicted that "the Catholic group in the next synod will be larger than in the last one."

Neither side has an official "state" of candidates, so neither judgement can be tested.

To succeed, the ordination of women will have to receive a two-thirds majority at some point in the five-year life of the next synod. In the past, support has been below that level.

Unofficial calculations suggest that in the House of Clergy, which is the crucial arena in this matter, there will be at least 10 more votes for the ordination of women, bringing the majority almost to two-thirds provided the "don't knows" continue to remain split.

The new synod will contain at least five MPs and probably seven.

Mr John Gummer, Conservative MP for Suffolk Coastal, was the only MP re-elected.

Standing successfully for the first time were the Conservative MPs Brian Mawhinney, Mr John Stokes, and Mr Peter Bruinvels.

Sir William van Straubenzee, Conservative MP for Wokingham, sits ex-officio as Second Church Estates Commissioner, and Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, and Mr Simon Hughes, Liberal MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, were co-opted last time.

Two notable defeats in the election were of former members who, almost single-handed, changed the synod's position on controversial issues.

The Bishop of Aston, the Right Rev Colin Buchanan, was a lone voice opposed to including the phrase "I absolve you" in the church's official worship until the majority took up the cause and rejected it.

Mr Raymond Johnston, former director of the Festival of Light, organized opposition to a church policy statement on *in vitro* fertilization, which was eventually voted down.

Both those defeats were unexpected in church circles, but were taken as evidence of how synod elections can produce capricious results.

The Rev David Holloway, the leading opponent of the Bishop of Durham's theological opinions in the last synod, was re-elected for Newcastle and said yesterday that he believed there would be greater weight on his side judging from results so far.

Murder inquiries

Detectives investigating the murders in 1982 of Susan Maxwell, aged 11, and Caroline Hogg, aged six, questioned a man at Norwich prison yesterday who is on remand charged with the attempted rape of two girls aged 13 last July.

Computers 'will lead to home-based education'

Children with home computers will by the end of the 1980s learn to read and write almost as fast as they learn to talk, two leading educationalists said yesterday. Pupils aged 12 will have no difficulty mastering calculus, they add.

As computer-based education systems become well established, children in their early teens will reach comparable levels of understanding in both the arts and sciences, Mr Tom Stonier and Miss Cathy Conlin say in *The Three C's* (Children, Computers, and Communications), published yesterday.

According to the authors: "Computers will become as much a part of our daily lives as electricity and one of the major impacts they will have in our homes will be a restructuring of our education system."

The computer will provide access to information stored by the world's leading newspapers, libraries, museums, government offices and other professional information providers, they add.

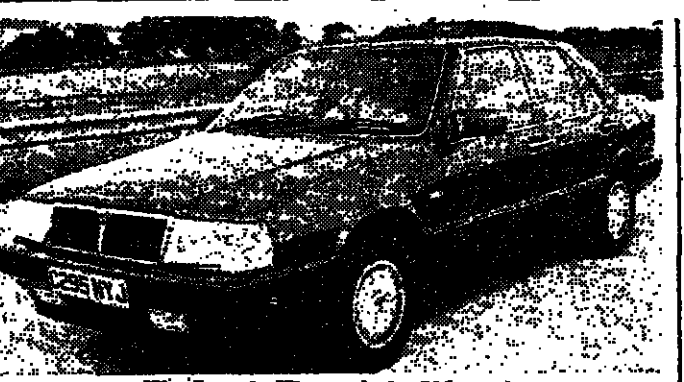
The home computer will "become a personal tutor par excellence which, with the help of parents and teachers, will lead to a radical new home-based, education system - computer-based education."

The *Three C's* (John Wiley and Sons, £7.50).

Judges delay lorry decision

The Court of Appeal reserved judgement yesterday on a move by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, to force the Greater London Council to hold a public inquiry before imposing a night and weekend ban on heavy lorries in London.

Lord Justice Oliver said that they would take time to consider their decision. They are being asked to overturn a High Court ruling last July which gave the go-ahead for the ban.



The Lancia Thema in its V6 version

Executive Lancia carries hopes for boost in sales

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The Lancia Thema, a high-performance executive car carrying the Italian group's hopes of improving its depressed sales in Britain, arrives in showrooms today.

At prices from £8,829 to £12,441, the Thema's four models range from 2 to 2.8 litres and are among the cheapest and fastest in their class.

The slowest, will exceed 120mph while the 2 litre, turbo-charged version is claimed to reach 135mph and is equipped with anti-lock braking as standard.

Lancia's British sales have collapsed in recent years in the wake of its reputation for rust. To counter that, more than 40 per cent of the Thema's body weight is made up of galvanized steel. Six layers of paint protect the most exposed body areas.

All four models have Bosch fuel injection and an aerodynamically efficient body designed by Guigiaro, one of Europe's leading automotive designers.

Six accused in dog fight case

Six men accused of helping to stage dog fights on the premises of a primary school were remanded on bail for a month by magistrates at Redbridge, east London, yesterday.

Alexander Funk, aged 29, the school caretaker, is charged with permitting the premises to be used for dog fights.

He is further accused with Paul Folley, aged 37, unemployed, of Hobart Road, Dagenham, Martin Kennerley, aged 20, a joiner, Keith Ravenscroft, aged 26, and Craig Nuttal, aged 23, both unemployed, from Middlewich, Cheshire, and Peter Preston, aged 43, a businessman from Boston, Lincolnshire, of assisting in dog fighting.

Divorce survey

A survey commissioned by the Roman Catholic hierarchy in the Irish Republic shows that 48 per cent of Catholics there believe divorce should be made legal.

Food firm in highest race case payout

By Pat Healy Race Relations Correspondent

A London food company yesterday agreed to pay £21,850 compensation to nine Chinese and one Thai woman in the highest single sum in a race discrimination case.

Harshell Foods (Magnifique), of Park Royal, west London, dismissed the 10 workers in July 1984 after telling them they could be replaced by people willing to earn less.

The company advertised their jobs immediately and filled them at the same rates of pay.

The highest award of £3,750 was made to Mrs Suphalux Montgomery, originally from Thailand but now a British citizen, who was one of two supervisors among these dismissed. The lowest award, £1,000, went to Mr Chuch Pui Man, who returned to China after losing his job as a packer, but has since returned to England.

The awards were announced at the resumed hearing of an industrial tribunal on August 28, found the company guilty of racial discrimination. Five of the workers are still unemployed.

Mr Donald Calvert, of the Commission for Racial Equality, which provided the 10 with legal representation, said afterwards that Chinese people should not hesitate to seek help if they believed they were victims of racial discrimination.

Chock from aircraft falls through roof

A rubber wheel chock fell from a Boeing 737 over London and crashed through a roof at New Covent Garden market yesterday.

No one at the fruit and vegetable market was hurt as a 3 ft hole in the metal roof and landed only a few feet from where a group of people were standing.

A second wheel chock fell out of the nose wheel soon after the cargo aircraft, belonging to Sabena, the Belgian airline, landed at Heathrow Airport at 3.55am.

The aircraft later underwent intensive investigation at Heathrow before returning to Belgium. The police and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) were informed, but a spokesman for the CAA said it had no jurisdiction over a foreign airline.

A spokesman at New Covent Garden, at Nine Elms on the South Bank, said: "There were some people just a few feet away from where the chock fell through. We were very fortunate that no one was hurt because at this time of day it's coming up to our busy trading period."

He said: "We knew it was a Sabena aircraft involved because the wheel chock had the airline's name imprinted on it."

The 18-inch diameter wheel chock, encased in a steel frame, is used for holding aircraft stationary while parked.

Missing man found murdered

Mr Alexander McClelland, aged 66, of Willow Garth Avenue, Whinmoor, Leeds, who had been missing for four weeks, has been found murdered in the boot of his car near a working men's club in Brighouse, West Yorkshire.

Police said he had died from stab wounds. Mr McClelland vanished from his home on September 12, the anniversary of his wife's death.

Boy awarded £20,685

Nicholas Jeary, aged 14, who suffered almost 40 per cent scarring of his body after hot water was accidentally tipped over him while at play school 12 years ago, was awarded £20,685 damages in the High Court yesterday.

The boy, of Hilmarton, Claine, Wiltshire, has to cover himself when the sun shines. But the treatment he received after the accident in August 1973, caused his teeth to fall out and left him deaf.

Damages for his deafness are subject to further legal action against ICI and Avlex, the manufacturers of an anti-biotic drugs spray, and Wessex Regional Health Authority, responsible for the Princess Margaret Hospital at Swindon.

The damages were awarded against Mrs Angela Riddiford, of the Technical School, The Green, Calne, who ran the play school and admitted liability.

Mr Martin Curran, of Herne Hill, south-east London, aged 37, was awarded £77,500 in the High Court yesterday for the injuries he suffered after a car accident in July 1982. His wife and three children, who were in the car, were awarded £3,055.



Nicholas Jeary after yesterday's decision

Pudding's back on the plate as health food loses favour

By Patricia Clough

After years of calorie-counting and novelty-seeking, Britons are returning to traditional British dishes such as roast beef and treacle pudding with gusto.

Even tea-time, long since on the way out, has made a slight recovery, according to a survey of the nation's eating habits by Taylor Nelson and Associates, a market research agency.

The survey, in which 2,100 households kept a record of their meals from last November to May, showed that the trend was partly due to the cold winter, when families wanted more solid, warming meals.

But it was also a reaction against the healthier, less fattening diets which people have been induced to adopt in recent years. "Many traditional foods have declined by over 10 per cent over the past five years", a spokesman for the agency said. "They have been falling at such a rate that we expected a backlash."

The trend may have been helped by the influx of fast-cooking microwave ovens, Taylor Nelson says, since one reason Britons turned away from traditional fare was the time it took to cook.

According to the survey, meals which included roast beef were up by 5 per cent compared with 1984. Use of gravy was up by 6 per cent.

Families ate 8 per cent more steamed and baked puddings, accompanied by 7 per cent more custard. Milk puddings stayed level, which was remarkable given the rate at which the nation has been going off them.

Tea-time made a 1 per cent recovery, but the agency's figures did not show if that meant the southern 5pm tea-and-cakes version or the northern cooked meal.

Nothing, it seems, will induce Britons to go back to preparing porridge and bacon and eggs for breakfast. Cereals are firm favourites in six out of 10 households, with muesli, bran, wheatgerm and other health grains rapidly displacing cornflakes and the like.

The long-term trend is still to healthier, quicker and more varied meals and Taylor Nelson does not expect the beef-and-pud nostalgia to be more than a minor fashion.

Desserts are declining in favour of fruit and cheese, yoghurt is replacing the sweeter puddings, and roast poultry is taking over from roast beef and lamb.

Pennine area 'important'

The designation of 860 square miles of the north Pennines as an area of outstanding natural beauty would not "fossilize" the area or prevent development, a public inquiry in Durham was told yesterday.

The designation of the area between the Northumberland national park, and the York-

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CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE/BLACKPOOL

Election planning • Social security review

CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK

The Tory party has come to Blackpool in the hope that the town's breezy majesty will blow away its mid-term blues. It is a time-honoured tradition in this monument to industrial democracy. The Lancashire cotton workers, followed by many other workers, had much the same idea as they flocked here to rid themselves of their worries, flocked here determined to rapturously enjoy themselves.

The Tory party filling the ornately pillared and galleried winter garden has the same determined look, they want rapture, they need rapture, to wash away the polls and other parties; to wash away miseries and mounting unemployment and to wash away the grumbles they keep hearing from townfolk who are convinced that ratepayers are going to foot the bill for all the phenomenal security.

Rapture demands a slowish journey

Rapture, by nature, demands a slowish journey. It began with neat touches of irony, of messages with inner meanings for this privileged audience. The lesson in the short service which opened the conference, was from Romans chapter 12. It exhorted delegates not to be lazy, nor too wise, and never never to try to repay those who do them wrong, never seek revenge. The silent audience must have hoped that at least one television set was on somewhere in the West Country.

After that there was a hymn change "Jesus Shall Reign" was dumped in favour of "I Vow to Thee My Country". The second verse contains the words "her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering... her ways of ways of gentleness... and all her paths are peace."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher was sitting on the platform her wounded pride hidden beneath a blue carnation, looking faithful, newly-gentle and very, very attentive. Whoever said she never listens?

She gazed down on each rostrum speaker and nodded to points in their speeches; she gazed up at every platform speaker and her hands clapped in approval.

Mrs Thatcher's attentiveness was mirrored by other politicians. They have clearly been told that the party that is busy Serving the Nation, the conference slogan, must also find out what concerns the nation and there is no better place to start than with its own supporters.

The new Listening Party, happy enough to borrow a slogan from a bank, has gone one further by proving that it is listening and if it does by having ministers list the names of speakers and refer to points they have made.

Some ministers do this superbly, but then there are others who take the easy option and list the lot.

Either way such flattery of the delegates works well; it is as good a route as any to rapture and delegates needed something to get them through irritating moments when gremlins got into microphones and prevented them being heard and some dull moments tramping through the various byways of Tory transport policy, which claims to put passengers first and a slog or two at wicket Labour councils who spend taxpayers' money on propaganda, or worse still trips to Nicaragua and Moscow.

Tebbit scorned away Tory blues

They were well rewarded: rapture within three hours in the shape of Mr Norman Tebbit. The mere sight of him sent pulses soaring, they clapped and cheered until he looked embarrassed and quipped: "I'd better go now while my luck lasts."

He did not and his luck lasted because he leant heavily on the oldest of weapons, scorn. He poured scorn on all the other parties, their leaders and their policies, he poured scorn on the opinion polls and on the TUC, and the cage of parrots, he poured scorn over everything.

Scorn suits the ruling party; it suits Mr Tebbit, it goes well with his lugubrious face; and it suits the delegates. He had scorned away their blues.

Linda Christmas

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

Tebbit champions winning hearts and minds of electorate as well as polls

Reports by Alan Wood, Robert Morgan, Derek Barnett, Sheila Beardsall and Anthony Hodges

There were no short cuts and no glib, magic solutions to material success, Mr Norman Tebbit, Conservative Party chairman, told representatives yesterday, the opening day of the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool.

They had to work towards material success and social stability through a property-owning democracy, Mr Tebbit was given a standing ovation when he rose to speak and a three-minute standing ovation at the end of his address.

Mr Tebbit said that he was proud to have been entrusted with his new responsibilities as party chairman, although he had left the Department of Trade and Industry with some regrets. He had had a splendid team of ministers, and loyal and able civil servants of the highest quality.

"Prime Minister, you have placed these great responsibilities on me and my task, with the help of you all here, is to ensure that the historical pre-eminence of the party is matched by precedence in the polls and in the hearts and minds of the British people."

It should not be a difficult task, after all look at the help we have already been given, not least from those who spent last week in Bournemouth.

"What a vintage Labour Party conference that was. The sheer spite, the venom, the bile, the hatred of the Labour party for each other, let alone us. It was there displayed for all to see: walkouts, splits, tantrums, extremism. We saw the party of the comrades there under the Red Flag, united in fraternal detestation of each other's guts," Mr Tebbit said.

"There they were, hands clasped around each other's throats and our task is to see they never get their hands upon the throat of this nation."

Many had watched the debate in which Mr Kinnoch had been defeated by Mr Scargill in his demand for immunity for thugs and bullies convicted of every crime from vandalism to murder. Like almost every debate at every Labour conference, it had been decided before the arguments were heard - decided in private rooms by big union bosses trading big blocks of votes.

"We all know that in some countries democracy has meant one man one vote, which is alright for the one man with the one vote in some of those countries," he said to laughter.

"Within the Labour Party it is

the voters that their opponents were incompetent or worse, although they were. To win the next election they had to have a vision of exactly what sort of Britain, what sort of society they intended to create.

"Above all, it must be a Britain in which we re-establish and strengthen the unity which has always been the strength of our nation. That unity cannot be based upon egalitarianism - upon the nonsense of punishing the successful with penal taxation - nor upon the divisive

racism preached by the black power merchants of the extreme left.

"It must be based only upon respect for our traditional institutions which have served us so well in the past, not least the rule of law upheld by our courts, our judiciary and our police."

The Britain they wanted was one in which unemployment had been defeated and in which everyone shared in the steady expansion of wealth. But there were no short cuts, no glib, magic solutions in their vision.

They must work towards the material success and the social stability that could come only in a society in which Harold Macmillan described as a property-owning democracy, not a society in which the Government owned people's homes, and industry and the Chancellor owned people's pay packets and now even wanted to be everyone's bank manager.

"With the liberation of trades unionists from the arbitrary rule of political union bosses, with the spread of share ownership the effect upon our industry could be as dramatic as the effect of house sales on so many of our council estates. A sense of pride and independence, of not just wanting things to be better, but making them better and sharing in the benefits. The old antagonisms of shop floor and management, the class adversarial system is loved by only the class war warriors of the left and it is time they went."

"Incentives at work, the security of property ownership can provide both the stability and the dynamic to accelerate our economy, to drive us forward to a society in which we can afford the education, the pensions, the benefits, the health care we all want."

Mr Tebbit said the ambition of the Liberal-SDP Alliance was to be no more than power brokers.

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When the vote had been put as to whether it was Scargill's party or Kinnoch's party, the 1,294 delegates entitled to vote decided by 3.5 million votes to just under three million to follow Mr Scargill and not Mr Kinnoch. It had been hailed as a triumph that the miners' leader had won by only 630,000 votes, if that was a triumph Mr Tebbit wondered what defeat looked like.

"If it was not so serious it would be a farce." Every key decision at Bournemouth had been taken by a handful of big union bosses who had not consulted their members.

Looking at the Militant Tendency takeover of the constituency Labour parties, many asked whether it was better that the old guard of trade union chiefs should be controlling Mr Kinnoch rather than the loonies lefties of Liverpool or the nasty lefties of Lambeth.

"But think again. Who holds the power? It was no accident that the TUC conference first voted for Mr Scargill and then forced its views on the Labour Party - which it owns."

Who had just been elected chairman of the general council of the TUC? Mr Ken Gill, who was no longer a member of the Communist Party because he thought the British Communist Party was a bunch of wets and they thought he was too pro-Moscow.

Where had Mr Kinnoch chosen to make the launch of his new statement of policy? The House of Commons? No. Labour Party headquarters? No.

"No, the leader of the Labour Party padded down to the TUC headquarters where Mr Norman Willis took the chair and Mr Kinnoch was allowed to announce just what the big union bosses had decided to let him announce," Mr Tebbit said.

"Just think, what would The Guardian or the BBC say if we ran our affairs the way the Labour Party ran theirs? What would they say if you, Prime Minister, obediently trotted over to the CBI HQ whenever Terry Beckett whistled?

"Can you imagine what they would say if the Prime Minister read out, under the watchful eye of Terry Beckett, the policy dictated by the CBI?"

"And what about the Communist Mr Gill, chairman of the TUC? Can you imagine what they would say if the president of the CBI was a member of the National Front?"

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MINERS

Kinnoch accused of NUM cowardice

Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, accused Mr Neil Kinnoch of "cowardice" over the miners' strike, claiming the Labour leader lacked "the guts" to throw Mr Arthur Scargill out of the Labour Party.

To loud applause Mr Walker said: "Last week there was much comment in Bournemouth as to Mr Kinnoch's courage. I must tell you that throughout the whole of that dispute I saw nothing but Mr Kinnoch's cowardice."

He added: "No matter how left wing Mr Scargill's performance is, no matter what outrageous, probably illegal, acts there are in the future, Mr Kinnoch will never have the guts to throw him out of the Labour Party. I might say that the same cannot be true for Mr Scargill's powers and views towards Mr Kinnoch."

Mr Walker said the nation should be terrified of the power held by Mr Scargill and the NUM over the Labour Party.

"The contrast between our performance and the power of that man in that party should make this country conclude that it is in the miners' interest and the national interest to see that we continue with the sanity and sense of a Conservative government."

Some of the speakers during the energy debate had appealed emotionally for support for the mining communities.

Mr Walker said the Government recognized the special place miners held in society and the community horror caused by a pit closure.

"Last week the Labour conference was not discussing how to provide a good future for the miner and his family. They were discussing how to retrieve the fines that Mr Scargill had been forced to pay for the illegal actions he had pursued. After having discussed them they voted for Mr Scargill."

He said Mr Scargill must never be allowed to use the industrial clout of the NUM to bring about a Marxist society in Britain. "I say this to the miners of Great Britain. Never again become the cannon fodder for Mr Scargill in a Marxist crusade which he pursues."

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AGRICULTURE

Ministers promise extra cash for farmers

Extra government money for farmers facing great difficulties because of the wet summer was promised by Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture.

Details had still to be worked out, but the government intended to help those farmers as soon as possible with cash flow to assist them in coping during the coming winter.

There would also be help for Northern Ireland through the transfer of cereals from intervention stocks.

Incomes in the less-favoured areas, would be considered in the annual review of the rates for hill livestock compensatory allowances which would take place this autumn.

Mr Jopling, replying to the debate on food and farming, said the biggest problem in Europe was surplus production.

courage people, voluntary groups, local haulage operators, the unemployed, to start up their own bus services."

He also has a message for British Rail: "No one owes them a living. Railways do not compete with each other but they can and do compete with the car, the coach and the aeroplane. This has produced improvements already."

They key to improving rail travel rests on the railways realizing that no one owes them a living. They have no monopoly anymore. They will have to match up to the competition.

"British Rail say they're 'getting there'. We are determined they do."

He said the Government's privatization programme ensured fair competition. He

expected British Airways, the National Bus Company subsidiaries and the British Airports Authority to be owned by private shareholders by the next election.

"We have already sold about £600 million of assets back to the people. By the next election this figure will be multiplied many times over. We are returning so called 'public industry' to the ownership of the people."

The conference passed the motion that good road, rail, air and sea links were essential for economic recovery. It also called on the Government to ensure levels of investment were maintained and, if necessary, increased to cater for future demand.

Lord Justice Watkins said in the Court of Appeal that Hutchinson's argument relating to hearsay evidence raised no point of law of general public importance.

Another was the indication, in this case expressed by what he did not say, that the Government may not press ahead before the election with its intention to phase out Serps. This is the kind of controversial proposal which is dangerous to push through Parliament in the run up to an election.

The Government's political failings have not just been in presentation, but in timing and judgment. That is where more sensitivity is required if Conservative confidence is to be restored.

WELFARE

Review 'not an attack on benefits'

The case for reform of social security was overwhelming because all the evidence was that this system was in danger of breaking down. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said in replying to a debate welcoming Government plans to bring about a fundamental reform of the social security system.

The motion, which was passed, called for a new framework which retained the essential principles of the welfare state while bringing about greater simplicity, directing resources to those in genuine need and providing an escape from the poverty trap.

In mounting the review, Mr Fowler said he had not wanted it carried out behind the walls of Whitehall: if the nation was to be served, the Government had to find what concerned the nation.

It was not an attack on the welfare state as portrayed by the Government's opponents. The review had been started not because the Government did not care, but because it did care.

The review had shown that since the 1940s social security had not adapted as society had changed, it had lost its way.

It took too little account of future commitments and of how those commitments would be met, he said. It was not meeting the needs of today, in particular, poor families with children.

Mr Keith Davy, moving the motion for Keighley Conservative Association, said that Conservatives had talked about the inflexibility and unfairness of the system and had realized that people's needs were not being met. But they had just gone on tinkering with the 40-year-old system.

The state, in organizing these things, should not stifle incentive, opportunity or responsibility. It should leave room for voluntary action by individuals to provide more for themselves and the community horror caused by a pit closure.

Mr Barry Field, Horsham, opposing the motion, said that the proposals would limit the discretion of local authorities.

Mrs Maggie Pinner, Lewisham-Deptford, said she could not give her support. The Green Paper had failed to come up to expectation.

"It would do little to relieve the poverty trap. Severe hardship could be caused to those in need. She was a councillor and in her area, she said amid cheers, most of those receiving benefits were not feckless or scroungers but men and women, the elderly and the disabled, in need of the few extra pence a week from their allowances.

The loss of £5 a week to people in this hall would mean, perhaps, the inability to buy a small round of drinks in the Imperial Hotel tonight, but to many of my constituents it would mean inability to heat their flat for a week this winter."

Mr Norman Fowler won the conference's approval for a spirited defence of a welfare state yesterday afternoon. Butler and his Education Act of 1944, loud cheers; Harold Macmillan's house building programme in the 1950s, still louder cheers. Successive Conservative governments between 1951 and 1964 were acclaimed for expanding the health service.

Yet the names of Butler and Macmillan, the record of those Conservative governments, were only a little while ago taken to represent the post-war consensus from which the Thatcher government was to break away.

When Conservative ministers speak of the extra money that the Government is spending on the welfare state, they are correct. But when they ask plaintively why this is not more widely recognized, one of the principal answers lies in their own rhetoric. They may be spending more, but they mean to spend more? Or are they asking the country to give them credit for what they would like to avoid but cannot help?

If the Government is to escape the political obliquity it has been receiving for spending "cuts" it needs to articulate its intentions, as well as its achievements, more clearly. Perhaps Mr Fowler's references to the welfare state should be taken as a step towards political sensitivity in that field.

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Angolans suffer big losses in failed offensive against Unita

From Michael Hornsby, Lomba river, south-east Angola

Angolan troops have failed in a big offensive against the rebel headquarters of Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement in the south-eastern part of the country.

They have been forced to beat a hasty retreat, suffering heavy losses. The approach of the rainy season makes it unlikely another offensive will be attempted this year.

This much seemed clear to a party of journalists, including myself, who were taken by Unita to see the area of the main battle, about 160 miles inside Angola's Cuando Cubango province on Monday, a week after the Angolans began to withdraw.

What was much less easy to establish was the extent of the South African assistance Dr Savimbi had received in repulsing the attack, by far the biggest in the nine years since Unita established its rear base in the remote south-east part of Angola.

After an 18-month build-up of Soviet arms supplies to the Luanda Government, the drive against Unita began in mid-July with a thrust along the Benguela railway, and then into the Cuzco province, bordered by Zaire and Zambia.

Units abandoned Cazombo town on September 20, and withdrew troops to the south-east to bolster its defences around Mavinga, a once pleasant little place of a dozen whitewashed bungalows along a single jacaranda-lined street that now lies smashed and deserted.

Located some 140 miles inside Cuando Cubango province, Mavinga's importance lies in its airstrip, which makes it a key staging point and logistics base in the region. Its capture would have opened the way to an attack on Dr Savimbi's main base at Jamba, 160 miles to the south-east.

At a briefing in his thatched-and-log-roofed bunker near the airstrip, Dr Savimbi told us the attack on Mavinga was launched on August 15 from Menongue, the nearest important government air base. From there four Angolan armoured brigades, numbering 4,600 men, moved south-east in a two-pronged advance, at a point just south of the Lomba river and 17 miles north-west of Mavinga on September 7. They were held and then forced to retreat on September 29 after a big battle the previous day.

Dr Savimbi said the government troops lost 2,300 men killed, against 410 killed and 822 injured on the Unita side. Unita also claims to have brought down 17 aircraft, including five Soviet-supplied Mi25 helicopters, and to have captured or destroyed 151 army trucks.

Dr Savimbi emphatically denied having either asked for or received South African ground or air support, though he admitted having been given more arms by Pretoria in the past four weeks than in the previous 10 years, and that South African medical teams were tending wounded Unita soldiers in the field.

We drove north-west in Unita trucks through sandy bush along the line of the Angolan troops' retreat, passing

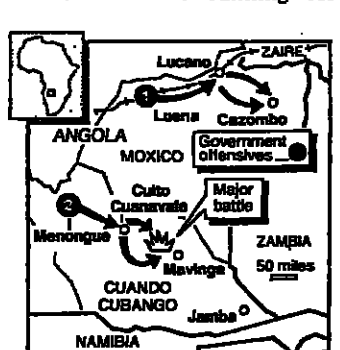
scores of abandoned foxholes and bunkers, which suggested troops had been well dug in. On every side the tinder-dry bush was scorched and blackened.

We must have seen at least 50 smashed lorries and the blackened hulks of a dozen or more Soviet-made armoured personnel carriers. In one small area some 20 Russian-made ZiU trucks, one mounted with the multiple rocket launcher, known as a Stalin organ, had been destroyed.

Near the Lomba river lay the twisted remains of an Mi25 helicopter of the kind used by the Russians in Afghanistan. Unita officers said it had been brought down by 120mm mortar fire as it tried to land and evacuate government soldiers.

Many of the government units seem to have been taken by surprise, possibly suggesting the suddenness of an air strike. In one place a truck and an armoured personnel carrier had been hit. A soldier, his head half blown away, was still sitting in the back of the truck.

Three other rotting corpses lay entwined beneath a haze of flies on the sand near by and the bodies of two other soldiers lay further away, as if they had been cut down while running for



cover. The stench of death was still present in many places as vultures circled overhead. With or without direct South African intervention, it is fair to say that the further Luanda's ponderous armoured columns advanced through the clogging bush and the more exposed they became at the end of a tenuous supply line, whereas Unita's more lightly armed infantry were fighting on home ground.

We saw little evidence of government air activity, though Dr Savimbi said that as late as October 5, MiG21s had made daily bombing runs aimed at the Mavinga airstrip, although it showed no signs of damage. Once we heard the distant rum of what sounded like mortar fire from north of the Lomba river.

Dr Savimbi claimed that nine Russian military advisers with the government troops had been killed in the fighting. He said attempts to capture some Russians had been frustrated because they were evacuated by helicopter while MiG21s provided protective cover.

We were flown into Angola under cover of darkness in an ancient Dakota aircraft, hired from a Pretoria charter company. The airstrip at Mavinga was lit only by flares. The pilot said the precautions were necessary because "there might be nightfighters about".



Two Angolans captured by Unita in the fighting around Mavinga. Airman Francisco Matuba (left) said he flew 20 missions during the offensive.

Britain extends support for aid to Sudan

By Stephen Goodwin

Britain is to continue support for the famine relief effort co-ordinated by the European Community in Sudan. Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, has agreed to extend the charter of a Hercules aircraft until October 31.

The civilian Hercules is used to ferry emergency food from Khartoum to airfields in Darfur, western Sudan, where distribution has been particularly difficult. The additional cost of the charter will be £325,000, taking total British Government famine and refugee aid in Sudan since November 1984, to £35.4 million.

Lagos told of Howe's shock at sentences

By Our Foreign Staff

Britain officially told Nigeria yesterday of its concern at the "shockingly severe sentences" imposed on two British engineers by a Lagos court.

The Nigerian acting High Commissioner in London, Mr Ibrahim Karfi, was summoned to the Foreign Office to be handed a copy of a statement made by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, after the 14-year sentences were passed on Angus Patterson and Kenneth Clark. They were found guilty of two charges of conspiring to steal and stealing a light aircraft 10 months ago.

In the statement, a copy of which will also be handed to the authorities in Lagos by the

Mururoa warning delivered to protest ship

On board the French Corvete Baly, South Pacific (Reuter) - French naval officers have boarded the Greenpeace flagship to warn the anti-nuclear protesters on board to stay away from France's test site and to exchange pleasantries.

The two sides had their first direct contact on Monday when the officers crossed 200 yards of choppy sea from the corvette Henri to the Greenpeace in an inflatable dinghy.

They delivered a typewritten message in French and English: "We remind you that passage through the territorial sea within 12 nautical miles of the surrounding reefs of Mururoa and Fangataua is temporarily prohibited."

Captain Louis Kergall of the Henri radioed to the Greenpeace as they parted: "I am withdrawing. Our transfer is completed. I hope that the next time sea conditions will allow us to send you some champagne."

The Greenpeace replied: "Yes, I hope it's a lot calmer next time and a few cases of champagne would be most welcome."

An official French report said later that the officers had received a warm welcome and had talked with the Greenpeace skipper, Mr Jonathan Castle, for about 10 minutes.

Mr Castle said that he had no ill feeling towards French sailors shadowing his ship and suggested the crews exchange visits. The report did not give a French response.

Captain Francois Souleau of the Baly said earlier that warships in the area had stepped up their vigilance because the Greenpeace had edged closer to the 12-mile limit around the forbidden atolls reaching a neighbouring 24-mile zone.

Mr Castle, said by radio that he was not planning to cross the 12-mile limit for the moment but that it was "always a possibility".

Wellington: The Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior, sunk by French secret service agents in July, is to be scuttled off the coast of New Zealand as an underwater marine memorial.

Former New Zealand military chiefs today criticized the Government's anti-nuclear policies and said a ban on visits by nuclear ships could lead to a complete breakdown in relations with the United States.

The statement by 16 former air force, navy and army chiefs broke the tradition of political silence normally observed by the New Zealand defence establishment.

There was no immediate reaction from Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, who said recently that his Labour Government would accept the scrapping of the ANZUS defence pact with Australia and the United States before it would abandon its anti-nuclear policies.

The former chiefs said they had written privately to Mr Lange repeatedly, "but we have until now deliberately refrained from public disclosure while there appeared to be any possibility of a political resolution."

The two engineers, employed by Bristow Helicopters, were

Mitterrand maintains confidence in spite of Greenpeace scandal

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand's successful two-day visit to Brittany, seems to confirm poll findings which indicate that, on the home front at least, he has emerged virtually unscathed from the Greenpeace scandal.

Almost everywhere he went in the predominantly right-wing region, he received a respectful and warm welcome.

On Sunday, *Le Figaro* magazine published a poll carried out at the height of the Greenpeace scandal immediately after the Defence Minister had resigned and at the time when France finally admitted its direct responsibility for sinking the Rainbow Warrior. The poll shows that the proportion of French people expressing confidence in Mitterrand has remained stable at a not unimpressive 38 per cent, the same as his rating in the previous month, while that of M. Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, has actually risen by one point to 48 per cent.

Less than six months before the general election in France, the political scene remains as confused and paradoxical as ever. Although a seemingly insurmountable gap of 20 points remains between the left and the right as far as voting intentions are concerned, attitudes to the various parties seem much more evenly balanced.

The *Le Figaro* magazine poll gives the Socialist Party 41 per cent of "good opinions", almost exactly the same as for the two main opposition parties, the Gaullist RPR (41 per cent) and the centre-right UDF (40 per cent).

Another poll published in newspaper, *Libération* shows that while the opposition parties win the most support for their political policies, it is the Socialists who have the most popular leaders.

When people are asked if they agree with what a particular politician says and if they find him sincere, M. Raymond Barre, the former Giscardian Prime Minister, comes out top in both categories. He is, however, closely followed by three Socialists - M. Michel

Rocard, M. Fabius and M. Mitterrand, all of them ahead of M. Jacques Chirac and M. Giscard d'Estaing, the other two main opposition leaders.

Throughout his Brittany visit, which ended yesterday, M. Mitterrand presented himself as a President of all the people, above the political mêlée, and for the past four years has been simply doing his "duty" in the interests of the country, the merits of which history, and even his own contemporaries, would one day recognize despite the present carping.

It was not the apology of a weary broadcaster leader confronting the imminent defeat of his party, but rather that of a determined political fighter who, whatever his present predicament, still believes he is a rank above the rest of them and that there is still just a chance the electorate might also appreciate that before it is too late.

On the forthcoming elections, M. Mitterrand said he did not intend to involve himself directly, but expressed the hope that the Socialists would go into the campaign united. He declined to talk about any of the Government's present difficulties, in particular the Greenpeace affair, maintaining that the Prime Minister already said all that needed to be said on that matter.

The Communists and the Communist-led CGT union made sure to involve himself in someone to heckle M. Mitterrand at each of his stopping-places in Brittany, but more often than not he was greeted with smiling faces, outstretched hands, tricolour flags, and red roses, symbol of the French Socialist Party.

On Monday M. Mitterrand interrupted his series of official visits to make a brief unscheduled call on the parents of M. Jean-Paul Kaufmann, the journalist held hostage in Beirut for the past 140 days. He assured them that negotiations were still proceeding but did not want to raise false hopes.

Pawn sacrifice gives Karpov food for thought

From Raymond Keene, Moscow

The world chess challenger Gary Kasparov launched a speculative attack in the very opening stage of the 13th game of his match with Anatoly Karpov. His tenth move sacrificed a pawn which Karpov accepted after 47 minutes thought.

Grandmaster experts believed Kasparov would obtain adequate compensation for the pawn.

Thirteenth game White: Kasparov. Black: Karpov. Nimro-Indian Defence.

1 P-N3 N-B3 2 P-Q4 P-N3

3 P-Q3 N-B3 4 P-N2 P-N3

5 P-Q2 B-N3 6 P-N3 P-N3

7 P-Q3 B-N3 8 P-N3 P-N3

9 P-Q4 P-N3 10 P-N3 P-N3

11 P-Q5 P-N3 12 P-N3 P-N3

13 P-Q6 P-N3 14 P-N3 P-N3

15 P-Q7 P-N3 16 P-N3 P-N3

17 P-Q8 P-N3 18 P-N3 P-N3

19 P-Q9 P-N3 20 P-N3 P-N3

21 P-Q10 P-N3 22 P-N3 P-N3

23 P-Q11 P-N3 24 P-N3 P-N3

25 P-Q12 P-N3 26 P-N3 P-N3

27 P-Q13 P-N3 28 P-N3 P-N3

29 P-Q14 P-N3 30 P-N3 P-N3

31 P-Q15 P-N3 32 P-N3 P-N3

33 P-Q16 P-N3 34 P-N3 P-N3

35 P-Q17 P-N3 36 P-N3 P-N3

37 P-Q18 P-N3 38 P-N3 P-N3

39 P-Q19 P-N3 40 P-N3 P-N3

41 P-Q20 P-N3 42 P-N3 P-N3

43 P-Q21 P-N3 44 P-N3 P-N3

45 P-Q22 P-N3 46 P-N3 P-N3

47 P-Q23 P-N3 48 P-N3 P-N3

49 P-Q24 P-N3 50 P-N3 P-N3

51 P-Q25 P-N3 52 P-N3 P-N3

53 P-Q26 P-N3 54 P-N3 P-N3

55 P-Q27 P-N3 56 P-N3 P-N3

57 P-Q28 P-N3 58 P-N3 P-N3

59 P-Q29 P-N3 60 P-N3 P-N3

61 P-Q30 P-N3 62 P-N3 P-N3

63 P-Q31 P-N3 64 P-N3 P-N3

65 P-Q32 P-N3 66 P-N3 P-N3

67 P-Q33 P-N3 68 P-N3 P-N3

69 P-Q34 P-N3 70 P-N3 P-N3

71 P-Q35 P-N3 72 P-N3 P-N3

73 P-Q36 P-N3 74 P-N3 P-N3

75 P-Q37 P-N3 76 P-N3 P-N3

77 P-Q38 P-N3 78 P-N3 P-N3

79 P-Q39 P-N3 80 P-N3 P-N3

81 P-Q40 P-N3 82 P-N3 P-N3

83 P-Q41 P-N3 84 P-N3 P-N3

85 P-Q42 P-N3 86 P-N3 P-N3

87 P-Q43 P-N3 88 P-N3 P-N3

89 P-Q44 P-N3 90 P-N3 P-N3

91 P-Q45 P-N3 92 P-N3 P-N3

93 P-Q46 P-N3 94 P-N3 P-N3

95 P-Q47 P-N3 96 P-N3 P-N3

97 P-Q48 P-N3 98 P-N3 P-N3

99 P-Q49 P-N3 100 P-N3 P-N3

101 P-Q50 P-N3 102 P-N3 P-N3

103 P-Q51 P-N3 104 P-N3 P-N3

105 P-Q52 P-N3 106 P-N3 P-N3

107 P-Q53 P-N3 108 P-N3 P-N3

109 P-Q54 P-N3 110 P-N3 P-N3

111 P-Q55 P-N3 112 P-N3 P-N3

113 P-Q56 P-N3 114 P-N3 P-N3

115 P-Q57 P-N3 116 P-N3 P-N3

117 P-Q58 P-N3 118 P-N3 P-N3

119 P-Q59 P-N3 120 P-N3 P-N3

121 P-Q60 P-N3 122 P-N3 P-N3

123 P-Q61 P-N3 124 P-N3 P-N3

125 P-Q62 P-N3 126 P-N3 P-N3

127 P-Q63 P-N3 128 P-N3 P-N3

129 P-Q64 P-N3 130 P-N3 P-N3

131 P-Q65 P-N3 132 P-N3 P-N3

133 P-Q66 P-N3 134 P-N3 P-N3

135 P-Q67 P-N3 136 P-N3 P-N3

137 P-Q68 P-N3 138 P-N3 P-N3

139 P-Q69 P-N3 140 P-N3 P-N3

141 P-Q70 P-N3 142 P-N3 P-N3

143 P-Q71 P-N3 144 P-N3 P-N3

145 P-Q72 P-N3 146 P-N3 P-N3

147 P-Q73 P-N3 148 P-N3 P-N3

149 P-Q74 P-N3 150 P-N3 P-N3

151 P-Q75 P-N3 152 P-N3 P-N3

153 P-Q76 P-N3 154 P-N3 P-N3

155 P-Q77 P-N3 156 P-N3 P-N3

157 P-Q78 P-N3 158 P-N3 P-N3

159 P-Q79 P-N3 160 P-N3 P-N3

161 P-Q80 P-N3 162 P-N3 P-N3

163 P-Q81 P-N3 164 P-N3 P-N3

165 P-Q82 P-N3 166 P-N3 P-N3

167 P-Q83 P-N3 168 P-N3 P-N3

169 P-Q84 P-N3 170 P-N3 P-N3

171 P-Q85 P-N3 172 P-N3 P-N3

173 P-Q86 P-N3 174 P-N3 P-N3

175 P-Q87 P-N3 176 P-N3 P-N3

177 P-Q88 P-N3 178 P-N3 P-N3

179 P-Q89 P-N3 180 P-N3 P-N3

181 P-Q90 P-N3 182 P-N3 P-N3

183 P-Q91 P-N3 184 P-N3 P-N3

185 P-Q92 P-N3 186 P-N3 P-N3

187 P-Q93 P-N3 188 P-N3 P-N3

189 P-Q94 P-N3 190 P-N3 P-N3

191 P-Q95 P-N3 192 P-N3 P-N3

193 P-Q96 P-N3 194 P-N3 P-N3

195 P-Q97 P-N3 196 P-N3 P-N3

197 P-Q98 P-N3 198 P-N3 P-N3

199 P-Q99 P-N3 200 P-N3 P-N3

201 P-Q100 P-N3 202 P-N3 P-N3

203 P-Q101 P-N3 204 P-N3 P-N3

205 P-Q102 P-N3 206 P-N3 P-N3

207 P-Q103 P-N3 208 P-N3 P-N3

209 P-Q104 P-N3 210 P-N3 P-N3

211 P-Q105 P-N3 212 P-N3 P-N3

213 P-Q106 P-N3 214 P-N3 P-N3

215 P-Q107 P-N3 216 P-N3 P-N3

217 P-Q108 P-N3 218 P-N3 P-N3

219 P-Q109 P-N3 220 P-N3 P-N3

221 P-Q110 P-N3 222 P-N3 P-N3

223 P-Q111 P-N3 224 P-N3 P-N3

225 P-Q112 P-N3 226 P-N3 P-N3

227 P-Q113 P-N3 228 P-N3 P-N3

229 P-Q114 P-N3 230 P-N3 P-N3

231 P-Q115 P-N3 232 P-N3 P-N3

233 P-Q116 P-N3 234 P-N3 P-N3

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Thousands in third big push

Afghan guerrillas on the run from big Soviet offensive around Kabul

From Michael Hamlyn
Delhi

Mujahidin guerrillas around Kabul, the Afghan capital, are on the run after the third big Soviet offensive of this summer's campaigning season.

For the past two weeks Soviet military might has been turned on the comparatively green and wooded region round Paghman, a resort town near Kabul formerly popular with the aristocracy of Afghanistan.

Earlier offensives have cleared the Kunar valley along the Pakistan border and have driven the rebels away from the key garrison town of Khost in Pakia province. The Paghman offensive, according to Western diplomats reporting in Delhi, is not on quite such a large scale.

A division of troops was involved in the Kunar and Pakia operations, but several thousand Soviet and Afghan soldiers are involved round Paghman and in associated operations at Wardak, around Maydanskhar and in the Logar valley.

The effect of the campaign is to cut off an arc of territory through which the Mujahidin have been operating from the north-west to the south of the city.

The diplomats have noted a drop in Mujahidin activity in the capital during the past week as a result.

The principal weapon in the Paghman campaign has been the helicopter. The area is about half an hour's flying time from Kabul airport, and the attacks have included some of the biggest airborne movements of the war against the rebels.

UN impasse

New York - United Nations attempts to achieve a negotiated settlement in Afghanistan have hit an impasse over the Kabul Government for direct talks with Pakistan on the key issue of a timetable for withdrawal by the Russians (Zoriana Pysatirsky writes).

The UN says three of the four treaties envisaged in a settlement have been drafted with the agreement of the parties involved. But the fourth, on a timetable for Soviet withdrawal, remains stalled by procedural difficulties. Diplomatic sources say these result from Russian reluctance to commit itself finally to withdrawal.

The procedural stumbling-block was revealed by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary General, in a report intended to put pressure on the two sides to compromise. Pakistan has resisted dealing directly with Kabul for fear that it would confer legitimacy upon the Afghan Government and the Soviet occupation.

According to one diplomat, 300 helicopter sorties were flown towards the area on one day alone, including 86 in one two-hour period.

Last week a Western observer watched as 16 Mi24 attack helicopters took off from the airport with their bomb racks loaded, they returned one hour later, having bombed the area south and west of Paghman.

The diplomats say details of the fighting are necessarily sketchy, but several sources among refugees fleeing the area say the Russians have begun to build a network of outposts and small garrisons, an early indication that the authorities intend to keep a military presence in the area, which has long been a headache for Soviet officers charged with the security of Kabul.

One diplomatic source with good resistance contacts in Paghman said the Mujahidin are now on the defensive there.

A number of civilian casualties of Soviet activity in the Logar valley have been admitted to two of Kabul's hospitals. At the end of last week a column of more than 100 light tracked assault vehicles loaded with Soviet troops and ammunition cases was seen heading out of the airport base for the south. The next day they were seen returning in smaller groups with the soldiers, according to one diplomat, looking "dead beat".

The Logar sector of the present offensive may also be connected with a big scandal in the province, the first such scandal to surface in the official Afghan media.

According to press reports at the weekend senior police, security and youth organization officials have been accused of co-operating with the rebels. The governor of the province has been accused of failing to control the situation and the provincial party secretary and other Ministry of interior officials accused of running an anti-party group.

Eanes steps in to avert crisis

Soares agrees to hold fort

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon

President Eanes of Portugal yesterday obtained from Dr Mario Soares a promise that he will soldier on as caretaker Prime Minister until a new government is sworn in.

The Socialist leader, however, indicated that his campaign to become Portugal's next President in January will go ahead, in spite of his party's general election defeat.

The President's intervention averted the constitutional crisis threatened on Monday night when Dr Soares impetuously announced that he was "delegating" with immediate effect all his official duties to the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Rui Machete, a member of the Social Democrat Party, which beat the Socialists to first place on Sunday and which has been asked by President Eanes to try to form a government.

Dr Soares was obliged to back down when constitutional experts pointed out the President alone can relieve a Prime Minister of his responsibilities and Dr Machete, backed by the

Social Democrat leadership, refused point blank to have anything to do with the idea. Dr Soares has been heading a caretaker administration ever since the coalition government of Socialists and Social Democrats collapsed last June, forcing an early general election.

In slow-moving Portugal, it could be a month before the new government is in place. President Eanes yesterday saw separately Professor Aníbal Cavaco Silva, the Social Democrat leader, and Senhor Hermínio Martinho, acting leader of the Democratic Renewal Party, which gained third place in its first electoral contest, just below the Socialists.

Senhor Martinho, who said on election night that his party would not join a coalition led by the Social Democrats, has now indicated that it might agree to a parliamentary understanding to help the formation of a government.

The new party has presented a minimalist programme putting it far from the Social

Democrats, who have played a big role in government over the past decade. Its demands include an outright attack on corruption in official places, and a new economic policy concentrating on greater social justice.

Dr Soares is at times an impulsive man, but behind his attempt to quit the prime ministership prematurely is his eagerness to dedicate himself to the presidential contest.

The Socialist Party has reacted badly to its defeat. A statement issued by the executive after examining the poll results accused President Eanes of breaking his promise of impartiality by launching the Democratic Renewal Party. It complained bitterly that the people had rejected the party which had "saved the country from bankruptcy" and had negotiated entry to the EEC.

The newcomer on a political scene of vaguely centre-left inspiration has really upset the existing parties.

Managua in clash over priests

From Alan Tomlinson
Managua

A new crisis has erupted in the troubled relations between Nicaragua's Sandinista Government and the country's Roman Catholic Church.

Church leaders are demanding the release of 11 young men arrested for alleged evasion of military service, arguing that they are seminarians studying for the priesthood. They were arrested in two separate incidents at parishes in the south of the country where there are no properly constituted seminaries.

The Government says the youths were posing as seminarians with the connivance of

local priests opposed to the draft, which has no provision for conscientious objection.

The bishops are threatening to break off their regular meetings with government officials, which had led to improved relations between Church and state, despite lack of progress on specific issues.

The crisis comes at a time when the head of the Nicaraguan church, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, is touring the country calling for reconciliation with the anti-Sandinista guerrillas known as the Contras, who are fighting with US backing to overthrow the Government.

The cardinal's homilies have been laced with vigorous warnings against what he calls "doctrines which deny Christ". He, and many of his bishops, believe many of the Sandinistas to be Marxist-Leninists bent on eradicating the traditional influence of the Church.

The Church's radio station, allowed to broadcast the cardinal's homilies only after prior approval of the Interior Ministry censor, has been promoting Cardinal Obando as "cardinal of peace".

He is circumspect in his language. "At no time have we attacked the Government, although the Church's mission is also to denounce situations of sin and injustice. Rather, we have limited ourselves to speaking about reconciliation.

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India revokes deportation order on Tamil

From Vijitha Yapa
Colombo

The deportation order against the Tamil separatist leader Mr Anton Balasingham, who was expelled from India on August 24, has been revoked, the Indian High Commission in Colombo said yesterday.

Mr Balasingham, a British national of Sri Lanka origin, is a spokesman for the four-member Tamil guerrilla group, the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLFF) and the theoretical most militant of the guerrilla groups, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The High Commission said the decision to revoke the order was unavoidable. He said it has been taken to encourage the involvement of the various groups in the discussion on the substantive issues in the larger interest furthering the peace process in the talks now being held in Delhi between the Tamil groups and the Indian Government.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka is willing to add some of the names from the list of 20 submitted to Colombo by the ENLFF, for inclusion in the ceasefire monitoring committee.



A car bomb explosion blew out all the windows of these central Brussels gas company offices yesterday, five days before the country's general election. There were no injuries. The guerrilla group Fighting Communist Cells admitted responsibility.

Ostpolitik hopes alive in Bonn

Honecker is edging Westward again

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, still does not know whether the Soviet Union will let him make the visit to West Germany on which he seems to have set his heart.

This is the view of the West German Government, most of whose politicians and officials are equally keen that the visit take place. Herr Honecker wanted to come here last year.

But, presumably after private warnings had failed, the Soviet Union resorted to the unprecedented action of saying publicly that Herr Honecker should not do so. Whereupon Herr Honecker, unsurprisingly, changed his mind.

Herr Honecker had given as his main reason for wanting to come here the wish to cement Ostpolitik, which Bonn's ruling conservative politicians had opposed when in opposition. He also expressed what might have been regarded in some quarters in the Soviet Union as a rather bourgeois desire to visit his Heimat. He was born in the Saarland, which is very much in the West.

That visit was contemplated when Chernenko was still alive. With his death, and the coming to power of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the possibility of a visit was raised again both here and in West Germany. But it has become entangled both in Soviet-American relations and domestic West German politics.

The accepted view here is that Herr Honecker will come, provided the Reagan-Gorbachev encounter in Geneva next month does not result in a failure that the Soviet Union blames on Mr Reagan and, by extension, his allies. It is also believed that Herr Honecker will come only if Bonn has not committed itself finally to support of President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

Finally, the visit must not take place too near the next West German general election, which is also noted here, however, that the Honecker article contained no adverse criticism of the same federal republic. The likelihood is that, whatever happens at Geneva, Herr Honecker would still want to come, but that the Soviet Union is reserving its position.

Left to their own devices, the two Germanies have been making great efforts recently to be agreeable to one another. The West Germans did not attack East Germany directly for the recent spy scandals, and the East Germans have indicated new concessions which would allow women aged over 55 to visit West Germany for family reasons.

World Court rift alarms Capitol Hill

From Christopher Thomas
Washington

The US decision to end automatic acceptance of jurisdiction by the World Court, on the ground that the body is being "abused for political purposes", was widely criticised on Capitol Hill yesterday.

The decision is a serious blow to the authority of the highest international court, whose prestige has already been undermined by the refusal of many countries to recognize its decisions.

The move, ordered by President Reagan, becomes operative in April, of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, only Britain still accepts compulsory jurisdiction by the court.

Washington's action is essentially the result of a case in which Nicaragua alleges that the US controls and directs Nicaraguan rebels in violation of the international law.

Senator Mark Hatfield, a Republican from Oregon, said the decision had "dealt a tremendous blow to the rule of law. Khomenei, Gaddafi, and all the other world class thugs who, thrive on the rule of the jungle will no doubt welcome this decision." He plans to introduce a resolution in the Senate deploring the move.

The court, formally known as the International Court of Justice, sits in The Hague. The US is one of 44 nations that can be called to account when charges are brought against them. The court has no powers of enforcement beyond the vague requirement that nations "undertake to comply" with rulings.

Mr Abram Chayes, a law professor at Harvard who is representing Nicaragua at the World Court, wrote in a newspaper article: "Not until the Nicaragua case, when it appeared the United States might lose, has this country ever questioned the court's professional judicial character."

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Amnesty reports record number of prisoners killed

By Caroline Moorehead

Government killing of prisoners by execution, assassination or torture reached new levels in 1984, according to the Amnesty International report published today. While no precise figure can be calculated because secrecy conceals many deaths, 1513 people were reported to have been executed in 40 countries by the end of the year, 114 in South Africa alone.

This is undoubtedly a bare fraction of the true number as official figures were not available for Iran, China and Iraq where many executions are known to have taken place.

The report says: "The taking of human life by the state must be recognized as an urgent and imperative issue for the international community."

Nor are executions anything but a small part of the total sum of deliberate political killings in many countries. The report says that during 1984 unarmed civilians were killed in large numbers by the Army and the police, by other security forces or by "death squads" sanctioned by the authorities.

In Chad, Guatemala, Indonesia, East Timor and Peru outright political murders, often taking place during counter-insurgency operations, accounted for thousands of

deaths. An Amnesty International inquiry in 1983 concluded that in El Salvador most of the estimated 40,000 people killed in political violence in the previous five years had been murdered by government forces which dumped mutilated bodies openly in an effort to terrorize the population.

In 1984 nearly half the countries of the world held prisoners of conscience in their jails, many of which were being held without charge or trial. A significant number have died in prison either deliberately through torture - as is known from evidence from Chile, Turkey and Uruguay - or from neglect, through malnutrition.

According to figures in the Amnesty report, 241 prisoners died of malnutrition in Sierra Leone's jails in 1984. In the Soviet Union, two human rights activists died after doctors' recommendations that they be freed were ignored.

Amnesty International continues to grow, having increased from 3,221 groups in 52 countries in 1983 to more than 3,400 groups in 55 countries last year.

The Amnesty International Report, 1985 (£5.95 from Amnesty International, 5 Roberts Place, London EC1R 0EJ).

Unesco plea to US and Britain

Sofia (Reuters) - The Unesco general conference opened here with an appeal to the United States and Britain to stay in the troubled agency to ensure its survival.

Opening the 23rd general conference of Unesco's 160 member states, the outgoing conference chairman, Said Telford, said yesterday that the departure of the US threatened the continued existence of the agency and went against the interests of world co-operation.

"I call upon President Ronald Reagan and the US Government to reconsider its withdrawal and come back to the organization as soon as possible," he told a crowd of 3,000 delegates and staff in the Bulgarian Cultural Palace.

The walkout by Washington, which left the agency with a 25 per cent budget shortfall, was causing more than a mere financial crisis, he said.

It was also depriving Unesco (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) of the work of one of the world's biggest intellectual and scientific communities, he said. "Under the same logic, I call upon Mrs Thatcher and the Government

of the United Kingdom to abandon... its decision to withdraw."

Western nations have accused Unesco of mismanagement, over-politicization and an anti-Western bias. Britain has given notice of withdrawal at the end of this year.

Unesco officials fear that British withdrawal could provoke a massive departure by other Western members, notably Japan, now the second largest donor after the Soviet Union. West Germany and The Netherlands have hinted that they may review membership.

But diplomats believe Britain is closer to revising its withdrawal decision than was Washington at the same time last year, as long as it achieves its goals at this conference.

The five-week meeting, which marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the agency, is considered by officials and diplomats as crucial to Unesco's future.

As the highest decision-making organ of the agency, the general conference will examine a series of management and administrative reforms pushed through by the West during the past 18 months, and the 1986-1987 budget and programme.

Hotline will stop another Korean airliner disaster

Tokyo (Reuters) - Japan and the Soviet Union will link two airport control towers by telephone to help to avoid a recurrence of the 1983 Korean Air Lines disaster which killed 269 people, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

In a memorandum exchanged yesterday Japan, the Soviet Union and the United States agreed to set up a direct phone line between control towers at Tokyo and Khabarovsk, Siberia.

They also agreed to establish a special link between the towers and one at Anchorage, Alaska. Without giving details, the ministry said it would be used for communications to help commercial aircraft in trouble over the north Pacific.

Soviet fighters shot down the KAL aircraft, flying from Anchorage to Seoul, when it strayed over the Soviet island of Sakhalin, north of Japan.

Hu on show as Deng's successor

From Mary Lee
Peking

Chinese television news last night showed the Communist Party General Secretary, Mr Hu Yaobang, laughing and joking with peasants along part of the historic Long March route, thus fuelling speculation that he is soon to take over the chairmanship of the powerful Central Military Commission from Mr Deng Xiaoping.

Mr Hu was shown on a 10-minute television news report retracing the route taken by the Red Army through Sichuan and Gansu Provinces during the Long March 50 years ago.

Looking remarkably fit in a trenchcoat with his Mao suit, Mr Hu, aged 75, rode a donkey along a mountainous path and seemed to be enjoying himself, recalling his own experiences in the Communist Party's historic achievement. The Liberation Army Daily recently carried a long article recounting his contributions as political commissar in one of the Red Army's divisions.

Western analysts say all this "image building" of Mr Hu's Red Army roots is aimed at a smooth transfer of control over the People's Liberation Army from Mr Deng.

As to when Mr Deng will relinquish his hold, one diplomat said: "He can't wait too long or people will really begin to wonder if Mr Hu will ever be ready to assume leadership of the P.L.A."

Mr Hu, comfortably sitting on the ground with Gansu peasants, was shown to be a man of the people, clutching toddlers and chatting happily with their mothers.

He also met Tibetan monks who showered him with their traditional Tibetan white scarves. The terrain which Mr Hu has traversed covered has changed considerably in the past 50 years. The official Xinhua News Agency quoted him as saying he was pleased to see many new towns rising on former marshland, new factories in remote mountain valleys, high-tension power lines over snow-capped mountains, and commercial caravans in dense forests.

Cosmonaut tells of risky space station rescue

Moscow (Reuters) - A cosmonaut yesterday revealed new details of a risky mission to bring the Salyut 7 space station back to life after a power failure had left it frozen and orbiting out of control.

Colonel Vladimir Dzhanibekov, aged 43, who returned to earth late last month, described in Pravda how he and an engineer, Mr Viktor Savinykh, crawled aboard the station and frozen station last June, fearing that the slightest spark could trigger an explosion.

Western experts said that emerging details of the mission testified to Soviet ability to cope with failures that have frequently marred their space programme.

The 47-tonne station, launched in 1982, suffered power failure when solar batteries went dead at about the turn of the year after a record 238-day flight by three cosmonauts.

Colonel Dzhanibekov described how he guided the Soyuz-T13 spacecraft to an unprecedented manual docking with the stricken station from a distance of more than a mile.

He said he and Mr Savinykh had been "wired to expect an explosive accumulation of gases. After boarding by the light of a hand-held torch they found normal air, but the lack of ventilation meant they had to fan exhausted air away from each other as they began work in freezing temperatures."

The most striking thing was the "oppressive silence and immobile air" of Salyut, he said.

He described how he and Mr Savinykh worked despite severe cold to rig new solar and chemical cells that brought the ship back to life after 10 days.

Two weeks ago, Colonel Dzhanibekov returned to earth with a cosmonaut-engineer, Mr Georgy Grechko.

Pressure on President to name successor

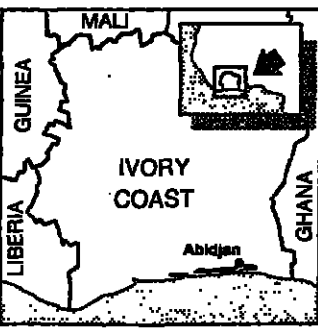
From Richard Everett,
Abidjan

Despite recent improvements in Ivory Coast's economy, the West African country and the international financial community are awaiting the outcome of elections which will succeed 80-year-old President Felix Houphouët-Boigny.

Known for its political stability and phenomenal economic growth in the 1970s, Ivory Coast has faced good times and bad under the watchful eye of President Houphouët-Boigny, who has managed to defuse or outmanoeuvre any significant political opposition since becoming president after independence in 1960.

However, Western observers and Ivorians themselves say the time has come for the President to designate a successor, although they acknowledge it is a difficult task for a man who has personally directed the country's economic and political activities for over a generation.

The congress of the country's sole and ruling political party, the Democratic Party of Ivory Coast, opens today amid speculation over whether a vice-presi-



journalist noted that such a change would be in character for the President who has maintained power by out-guessing his potential rivals.

None the less various names have emerged as potential candidates among them the former head of the National Assembly, Mr Philippe Yacé; the current holder of the post, Mr Henri Konan Bedie; Mr Jean Konan Banny, the Defence Minister; and Mr Maurice Seri Gboloba, the Minister of State.

One candidate who appears out of the running is Mr Emmanuel Dioulo, Mayor of Abidjan, who attracted international attention when his export firm became involved in a legal dispute with a major Ivorian bank over unpaid loans.

Mr Dioulo left the country complaining of "political harassment" following sensational coverage of court proceedings in the local media and a move in the National Assembly to lift his parliamentary immunity, thus leaving him liable to face criminal charges.

Behind the political activities, the economy continues to recover from setbacks brought on by the fall in world prices of its main exports, coffee and



مكتبة الأصيل

ath. An Amnesty International inquiry in 1983 concluded that in El Salvador more than the estimated 40,000 people killed in political violence in the previous five years had been murdered by government forces. It also dumped mutilated bodies openly in an effort to terrorize the population.

In 1984 nearly half the prisoners of the world held sentences of conscience in the U.S., many of which were without charge or trial. A significant number have been in prison either deliberately through torture — as is the case with prisoners from Chile, Turkey and Argentina — or neglect, through mismanagement. According to figures in Amnesty's report, 241 prisoners of conscience in the U.S. were in the U.S. in 1984. In the Soviet Union, two human rights activists died after doctors recommended that they be executed.

Interest in international human rights has been increasing from the 1960s. In the U.S., 3,400 groups in 1984 to more than 10,000 in 1985.

The International Commission on
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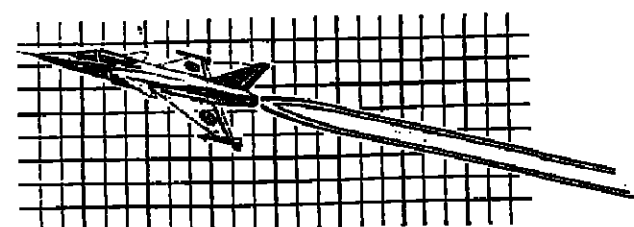
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THE ARTS

London's major orchestras, under all the old pressures and some new ones too, have their own individual ways of dressing the shop-window: Richard Morrison investigates

Programming the punters

Klaus Tennstedt: an LPO season to reflect his strengths

André Previn: an RPO season to hide his weaknesses

"Play safe" and "play to your strengths" are the mottoes of London's symphony orchestras this season. One cannot really blame them. Bureaucrats hatch schemes to raise one or more of them from the London landscape; public subsidy grows increasingly paltry; even the future of the major concert-hall complex, the South Bank, is uncertain.

But what are the individual strengths which each orchestra is trying to project, as it vies to win our ticket money or, better still, to lure you into subscribing for a whole season? Increasingly, it seems, the orchestras are trying to assert their individuality by grouping their repertoire into festivals or thematic series. "Mahler, Vienna and the Twentieth Century", "Après L'Après-midi", "The André Previn Music Festival", "The Bernstein Festival" — the titles are sometimes more impressive than the music-making. That, though, is all part of the aggressive new "hard sell", as he four independent symphony orchestras struggle to survive.

Only one of them has so far sustained such eye-catching headlines. With the London Philharmonic Orchestra each concert stands on its own, and the ones that look as though they are going to land most proudly are definitely in the Austro-German symphonic department. I sometimes think that Klaus Tennstedt lowered his mind to the mundane level of ensuring that everybody started to play at precisely the same moment, he would be an even finer conductor of Romantic music. Still, his Mahler's (March 18), his concert next May devoted respectively to Strauss, Brahms and Beethoven, and even his eccentric championing of *Caillou* (March 23), Carl Orff's



"other" setting of *risqué* medieval poetry, should all be worth catching. The trouble with the LPO's Festival Hall season is that Tennstedt does not appear again until the spring, and with Solbi's Bruckner Seven not weighing in until February 25, the pre-Christmas entertainment looks decidedly lightweight. Doubtless Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Requiem* (December 15) will attract a dense crowd, even without Domingo, but the weird scheduling of Elgar's *King Olaf* (November 3) will surely not bring them racing through the turnstiles. It does appeal to me, partly because I think Vernon Handley is the best Elgar conductor around, and partly because I want to know whether this epic cantata about a Scandinavian warrior-saint is really as terrible as the experts say it is. Two displays of froth and frenzy from Yevgeny Svetlanov may be notable for seeing how the showy Soviet copes with the fastidious and intellectual Alfred Brendel in Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto (November 5).

If the LPO's best programmes reflect Tennstedt's strengths, then the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's

season seems designed to hide Previn's weaknesses. When the orchestra appointed its new principal conductor, the players were probably thinking in hard-headed business terms: hoping that Previn's television fame would further enhance the remarkable uplift in their orchestra's financial circumstances. They also knew that Previn has a rare gift for interpreting the firecracker repertoire of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries but very little aptitude for the standard Viennese classics — and they have programmed accordingly. So if you book for the RPO's six-concert Previn series (beginning November 7) you will be in for exciting and polished performances of works like Mussorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition*, Vaughan Williams's *A London Symphony* and Copland's *Appalachian Spring*; but no Haydn, no Mozart, no Schubert and very little Beethoven or Brahms.

The RPO, however, has not entirely renounced hopes of catering for those who are (to quote a phrase which has made a big difference to this orchestra's bank balance)

"hooked on classics". To give its season some much-needed Germanic ballast Antal Dorati has been recruited to direct a seven-concert Beethoven series, which started last night and sprawls through to April 2 — which happens to be the Hungarian maestro's eightieth birthday. If you have signed on for this you will naturally bear a great deal of one composer's music — all the symphonies and concertos for a start — and nothing else. It might become tough going if you do not take a shine to Dorati's rather clipped and hard-driven way with Beethoven.

The Philharmonia's Festival Hall season looks better balanced in every respect and, since these players are currently making such a good, beefy sound, there are few concerns here to be avoided. The autumn has a solid look: four Mahler symphonies, six by Beethoven, three by Brahms; a dozen of your best-loved concertos. But the orchestra cannot keep its spring season with two five-concert series devoted to Britten and Elgar, conducted by Andrew Davis, and to twentieth-century French music (that is where the catchy "Après

L'Après-midi" label comes in) under Simon Rattle's baton. It is high time that Davis and Rattle, doing great things in Toronto and Birmingham respectively, were offered major conducting appointments in London. Perhaps if these series go well it will jog a few memories.

Even the Philharmonia's season has a few oddities. Bach's B minor Mass, stretched to heavenly lengths by Carlo Maria Giulini, seems a strange piece for a symphony orchestra to choose to celebrate its fortieth birthday. Such is Giulini's box-office pull, though, that the event is scheduled on successive nights (November 17 and 18). Purists will ensure that they have prior engagements, and I think that Elgar devotees brought up on Boult's interpretations may be in for a surprise when Sinopoli has his first Elgar evening (December 4). But I am pleased that the talented Esa-Pekka Salonen is to conduct Messiaen's vast and exotic *Turangalila Symphony* (November 9).

One of the most endearing features of the LSO's Barbican season is the cunning way in which the devisers of the "Mahler, Vienna

and the Twentieth Century" festival are slipping the Mahler addicts some corrective doses of nasty unknown music before they are allowed to wallow in the gargantuan products of their hero. Drawn to hear Abbado's interpretation of Mahler's Sixth (October 24), the punters might just acquire a taste (as Abbado himself has done) for the theatrical polemic of Luigi Nono's scores. That is good programming.

Not so clever is the LSO's idea of inviting the American composer Lukas Foss over to conduct and play the piano (December 3) but not perform any of his own music. One does feel some sympathy for the LSO players, though. On the one hand they must compete with Raymond Gubbay's promotions to attract the lowbrow audiences that seem to flock to the Barbican. It cannot be much more fun having to deliver four consecutive evenings of Christmas music than it would be to attend them, although (to misquote Mr Ian Botham's celebrated quip) I may well buy my mother-in-law tickets.

On the other hand the LSO's ritz

traditions and occasionally inspired playing standards give it aspirations in quite another direction — towards grandiose schemes like the current Mahler festival and next May's Bernstein festival. Unfortunately there is not much of substance in between. Yuri Achronovich's interpretations usually make people either rapturous or intensely angry (this Saturday); a safer bet in the Russian repertoire might be the underrated Yuri Simonov (November 28). It is symptomatic of the LSO's non-planning that both these concerts, scarcely six weeks apart, include Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto. Rachmaninov wrote three other perfectly good ones.

London's other symphony orchestra, the BBCSO, is of course less restricted in its programming by commercial considerations. The famous six per cent attendance at one of its Festival Hall concerts a few years back is still remembered in Broadcasting House with a sense of pride. Its "Music of Eight Decades" series (presented jointly with the London Sinfonietta) does add a welcome whiff of adventure to the South Bank's schedules: nearly every concert has a world or British premiere. Are they worth attending? Well, the fun of going to new-music events is that you only know afterwards whether you have been at the first performance of a masterpiece or the last performance of a dud, but it is a risk I like taking.

Strangely enough, however, the most important premiere on the BBCSO's list is not in the "Music of Eight Decades" series. It is the first British performance of scenes from Messiaen's opera *Saint François d'Assise*, with Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau in the title role and Seiji Ozawa conducting this orchestra for the first time.

Television

A taste of colour

Food Enough to Eat? (GTV) was a stomach-turning programme — the first of two and the latest of many — about food and what exactly manufacturers add to colour, flavour and preserve it. Apparently we consume 50 different additives a day — all of which sound like sooty neighbours, such as the sodium

phosphates and the azo dyes. "You can do things which nature can't do," boasted a food scientist in a white coat, but I do not suppose nature intended the same ingredients to enter mustard powder, chocolate pudding and mushroom soup.

The long-term effects of these additives are not known, but isolated examples were found of workers in a crisp factory contracting dermatitis from the flavouring and children becoming

hyperactive, asthmatic and rhinitic from an orange colouring.

While Judy Lever's message — that we do not have a clue what we eat — was disturbing, her programme soon degenerated into a bland concoction which was suggestive rather than conclusive and had the usual shots of rats in cages and hybridized supermarket buyers beside their shelves. Like the products under analysis, it needed extra colour and flavour — though I suspect tonight's follow-up will pack more punch.

The BBC's latest fly-on-the-wall series, *Prohibition* (BBC 2), is a worthy undertaking but I must be alone in finding it ponderously voyeuristic and dull. In last night's loosely filmed episode the fly seemed to drop off the wall and into the soup as David Scott guided his students through a legal and political maze.

The tone was self-congratulatory, the conversation obscure (Scott and his students sounded like psychiatrists talking about the shortcomings of their home computers) and the amount of

good being done to their "clients" nuclear. It was easy to sympathize with the poor alcoholic lady who cried "I can't take any more, Dave, I can't", and, when admonished for not completing a non-dependency form, replied "you got big feet".

You can generally tell the quality of a BBC programme by whether it is Cee-faxed. *Lame Ducks* (BBC 2) is not. It is hard to envisage why sentient beings can have allowed themselves to be implicated in the creation and transmission of this drolly unfunny series. Watching Lorraine Chase *et al* was akin to being stuck in a lift for half an hour with a group of warm-up men.

Nicholas Shakespeare

Theatre

Opposite directions

The Tempest

Royal, Brighton

Now on its third tour, Anthony Quayle's Compass Theatre has taken over the role of Prospect Productions as a purposefully energetic classical company, assembling excellent casts and design teams for performances round the old Theatre Royal circuit.

I cannot speak of Clifford Williams's revival of *Saint Joan* (with Jane Lapotaire) which joins the repertory at the end of this week before the company moves on to Newcastle. But from Compass's version of *The Tempest* (which is in need of a director).

Direction of *The Tempest* is jointly credited to Anthony Quayle and Nigel Jamieson. Quayle also plays Prospero. Jamieson, a director of the Trickster Company, is a specialist in movement and stage magic. The impression may be fortuitous, but it does seem that the partners have carved up the play between them; so that a solidly conventional reading of the text appears in the foreground backed up with displays of special effects.

Mark Neg's stage consists of two abstract mobiles of driftwood and sea-blanching rope, set against a series of coarse screens, variously lit (by Michael Northern) to unveil submarine visions or to attain the hard reflective brilliance of an insect's wing.

Ariel leads a chorus of spirits in wreathed, seaweed-coloured body stockings, moving through the human action with unearthly grace and performing some really stunning tricks: as when the magical banquet whirls on like a group of windblown flowers; or when Prospero's masque takes the form of an exotic marionette show, with each goddess appearing as if in a watery mirror to Richard Attree's pastiche Asian music.

The link between these transient dreams and the rest of the show lies in Quayle's

Prospero, who is less a magician than a master stage manager finally left on an empty platform shorn of all the instruments of illusion. The penalty he pays is also that of a stage manager: he is less interesting than the show he is putting on. If it counts as a virtue, he makes Prospero a kindly old chap even when picking Ariel off and inflicting courtship ordeals on Ferdinand. Also he cuts through the dense expository speeches and achieves brisk clarity of meaning. This, however, is at the cost of chopping up the huge verse paragraphs into short terse phrases that further bring action and character down to earth.

With the exception of Moir Leslie's Ariel — a thoroughly feminine performance despite the dehumanized costume — the supporting performances are exemplary. John Sharp's Stephano, a Loughborough Humpty in a flying wing-collar, grows to overbearing arrogance once in command of Clive Francis's Dracula-fanged Caliban: a performance which at once extracts heartbreaking music from the lines and acquires fruity clubland vowels once the bottle has been the rounds.

Terence Wilton and Tony Britton establish signorial authority as the washed-up Dukes: Royce Ryton interestingly contributes a guiltily sniggering Sebastian, and Natalie Wilde a Miranda who takes the romantic initiative and sweeps Ferdinand off his feet.

Irving Wardle

Soft Shoe Shuffle

Haymarket, Leicester

Mike Hodges is best known as the writer and director of the tautly atmospheric feature film *Get Carter* and (more recently) as the director of *Flash Gordon* and *Morons from Outer Space*. His work in the cinema may be seen as a progressive degeneration into burlesque; and this,

Concert

Orchestre National de France/Maazel

Festival Hall

Perhaps the pride of the Orchestre National de France has been stung lately by rumours (obviously put about by English journalists) that a great French orchestra is alive and well and living in Montreal. For here the Orchestre National, opening its fiftieth anniversary season with this short British tour, turned in a vintage performance of a quintessentially Gallic programme: moving from a firecracker Berlioz overture to Lorin Maazel's now rather familiar sprint through Bizet's *Fantaisie*, via the more refined pleasures of Debussy and Ravel.

Maazel (Paris born, as the programme reminded us) seems to find that Ravel suits his technique and temperament. Possibly it is the fastidious orchestration of the *Daphnis et Chloé* suites which matches his own painstaking attention to detail and penchant for surface excitements.

The opening string trills of Suite No 1 drifted into earshot like a thin mist, forming the perfect background for one of those unmistakably Paris-trained from players, sweet-toned and abundantly expressive, to shape the piece's first lyrical stirrings. Even the wind machine seemed to be operated with French delicacy.

There was nothing delicate, however, about the stamping

momentum with which Maazel propelled the "Danse guerrière", or the massive unity he obtained on the off-beat climaxes of the "Danse générale" (whose last, wild chord Maazel held spectacular long, like the seasoned showman he is).

Even at the peak of the stampede, though, one could take pleasure in the exactitude and clarity of the woodwind arabesques, and the musicianly manner in which the brass blended into, rather than topped, the general ensemble. Nevertheless, it was when the brass were silent, in the ravishing "Dawn" music (notable for a perfectly judged crescendo) and the succeeding "Pantomime" where the flautist phrased with superb flexibility, that the expressive peak of this *Daphnis et Chloé* lay.

Earlier, in *La Mer*, some high-register violin entries had been less well polished, and Maazel's way of heightening the already profuse expressive palette by sudden intense spurts of volume and speed is an acquired taste. He did delineate this score's myriad instrumental details effectively, though, and his handling of the last movement's stunning orchestra coup, when Debussy clears away nearly all the texture between the violins' whistling harmonic and the deep, double bass pedal-note, was admirably "plus calme et très expressif".

Francophiles in Nottingham, Sheffield and Leeds should book themselves a treat later in the week.

Richard Morrison



Clive Francis's Dracula-fanged Caliban: heartbreaking music from the lines

Soft Shoe Shuffle

Haymarket, Leicester

his first stage play, betrays many characteristics of that unfortunate form.

The failure is admittedly one of ambition, for Mr Hodges appears to be seeking to fill the sly boots of Joe Orton, a notoriously tricky endeavour which requires rigorous discipline if one wishes to dance rather than shuffle across the stage.

Initially the thing works well. In a funeral parlour oozing with Muzak, we find a strikingly attractive widow (France Tomelty) arranging the cremation of her late husband, who is to go to the flames dressed in a wetsuit in a silk-lined coffin, and to the accompaniment of the theme from *Exodus*; the flowers are to be "just plastic ones — he loved plastic", he had, we learn, "a connoisseur's eye for quantity".

What the wetsuit will actually contain is debatable, since the deceased, a staggeringly obese old businessman, leapt to his death from the nineteenth-floor

window of his dubious mail-order company. On being informed that her husband's death was murder, the widow gets a job with the firm, thereby giving herself a break from her velvet-lined purdah, and giving her new colleagues several kinds of polypitations.

Miss Tomelty's wardrobe is admirably kitsch — Raybans, fishnets, leopard-skin coats, homicidal stiletto heels and a hypnotic black leather dress — and Iona McLeish's set is nicely hotel-classical with its floor-length venetian blinds and fluted ionic columns, but the play runs aground on a shoal of red herrings purveyed by Bill Stewart as a stumblumby gunshoe by the name of (wait for it) Guy Hunter.

When Peter James's well-focused production transfers to the Lyric, Hammersmith, we shall have an opportunity for reappraisal, but for the moment there are too many characters chasing too few laughs.

Martin Cropper

When Peter James's well-focused production transfers to the Lyric, Hammersmith, we shall have an opportunity for reappraisal, but for the moment there are too many characters chasing too few laughs.

Martin Cropper

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The Greek pianist Maria Nifidou

is undoubtedly industrious as she negotiates all the notes with aplomb. It is both the powerfully masculine and the quietly lyrical passages that she makes her mark, but the middle ground tends to reveal her as musically a little superficial. Liszt's "Danse" Sonata effectively exploited her ability to handle contrasting material, but what amounted to a fixation with the awfully banal music of Manolis Kalomiris threatened to nullify much of the good impression that she had made. The classical style eluded her; the response to agogic markings in Beethoven's "Waldstein" Sonata was predictable and a lack of appreciation for the work's harmonic structure prevented it taking wing.

Maria Hayward Segal uses her slightly unwieldy soprano voice for the most musical of ends. When it is relaxed there is considerable beauty, although moments of ugliness have a habit of creeping in. She is essentially a dramatic personality, a grande dame who was in her element in Wagner's *Wesendonk Lieder* and the stormier episodes of Liszt's *William Tell* Songs. The approach is idiomatic and highly sophisticated, a fine legato lending warmth to the phrasing. But it is Ms Segal's overall portrayal of the spirit and the line of the music that makes her into an individual singer who grips the attention, but whose real home is the operatic stage, on which she has gained most of her experience.

James Methuen-Campbell

مكتبة الانجلى

Hats off to Nigel Mansell



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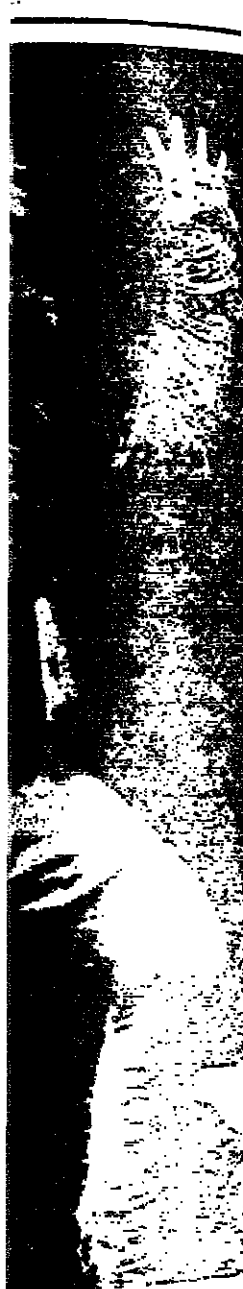
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Swinging into style: (from left) Armani's new draped dress; Op-Art and Sixties mini from Lagerfeld at Fendi; hipster pants and bare midriff from Byblos

Short-cut to the Sixties

Short skirts, angular lines, geometric prints and Let It Rock music are all bringing the sounds of the Sixties to Milan this week.

Karl Lagerfeld's upbeat collection for Fendi brought alive 1965 with Op-Art knit, transparent vinyl macs and the bare midriffs that are everywhere in Milan. Lagerfeld even brought back denim, weaving it with silver lures for evening and making it into the shortest, tightest dresses in town.

This could all be a *jeu d'esprit* from the witty Lagerfeld to underline the fact that he is celebrating 20 years of collaboration with the five Fendi sisters. An exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in Rome shows two decades of works on the fur coats for which Fendi is famed, and has a dramatic display of garments using high technology to keep them perpetually in motion.

THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIONS

MILAN

Suzy Menkes

The Fendi show was much the same - non-stop fashion on the move, kaleidoscopic prints of hot pink, orange and black, on trousers and longer skirts as well as minis.

But short ruled the day in the young, fresh Fendi show, where a square camisole top and minimal hipster skirt put legs as well as midriff into focus.

The Sixties beat has been pulsating through London street fashion, but who better to pick up the sound than English-born Keith Varty at Byblos? His fringed fright wigs

and Courreges revival dresses with stark geometric cut-outs looked like fancy dress.

Fresh and amusing - and also on the youth beat - were the Byblos prints, in tongue-in-cheek homage to the Hermes scarf.

Claude Montana at Complice turned his back on casual separates. His contribution to the current body-consciousness was in fitting his jackets, belting sarong skirts, outlining the thighs in hugging Bermudas and having the back with geometric cut-outs.

Montana kept the volume for floor-sweeping duster coats which went over short flirty shorts, knee-gripping Bermudas and over the dramatic black swimsuits, so revealing at the *derrière* that even the usually insouciant model girls looked bashful. The best of a show that went all over the place were sarong and wrap skirts in a batik print.

Swimsuits made even the models look bashful

Luciano Soprani has a very light touch and the most beautiful fabrics to work with. His combinations of tweedy textured jackets with light-as-a-breeze chiffon skirts or easy silk trousers made a great collection.

At least half the show was in black and white - silks printed with graphic brush strokes of paint, or molecular shapes picked out even in sequins at night.

Soprani also had soft satin separates in lingerie colours like peach, palest blue and cloaked cream. He, too, had

Batik prints which are becoming an important Milan message. They appeared at the Leather House of Mario Valentino printed in inky splashes on pale suede.

The mastery Giorgio Armani pulled together the different strands of Italian style. He focused on the midriff with his new wrap dress, a bias-cut panel at front and back lapping the body at the waist. He showed legs, but in the softest Bermudas rather than the sharp-angled miniskirt.

New were batik prints in green, sunshine yellow or wedgewood blue on transparent voile. The fabric was most stunning as the top layer of a double T-shirt that looked strong, modern and 20 fashion years away from 1965.

Photographs by Harry Kerr

Nothing to grouse about when dining à deux



Shona Crawford Poole

The best cooking I do is just for the two of us. It sounds silly to say I had not noticed before now, because everyone has had the maddening experience of a trusted recipe being less than its best when there is someone at the table one particularly wants to please. What I had not worked out properly before were the reasons why this should be so.

Is it coincidence that every-day meals cooked with a glass of wine to hand after the day's work is done are often the most accomplished? Not really. One reason is that the ingredients on the menu are those which offer the best combination of good quality and good value. Another is that we don't keep the food waiting. We eat it as soon as it is ready.

Put another way, it is advice we have heard before. To shop with a flexible menu in mind, never insisting on asparagus at any price and not to tackle anything too tricky, or new, but keep things simple when entertaining.

Roast grouse is a case in point. On our own we would not have a first course with such a substantial dish to follow. In the 10 minutes the birds are resting after roasting there is plenty of time to fry a couple of big croutons for them to sit on, and to catch the vegetables the moment they are done.

Reheated croutons are not a great success and, as I am not prepared to fry them between courses, I now leave them out when entertaining.

Roast grouse
Serves two
2 young grouse
30g (1 oz) butter
Seasoned flour

It does not matter whether the birds are cocks or hens, only that they are young and that they have been hung. However young they are they will still benefit from hanging, though not necessarily to the point where they taste at all high. Hanging not only develops the flavour of the meat, but tenderizes it too.

Bought birds will have been trussed and barded with fat ready for the oven and this work must first be undone. Discard the trussing strings and keep the barding fat. Cut off the back, legs and wings in one piece, leaving the breast still attached to its bone, also in one piece. Remove any innards left inside the birds, usually the heart and liver.

Set the backs on a buttered roasting tin just as if they were whole birds, and set the breasts, lavishly buttered, on top of them. Lay the barding fat on the breasts.

Roast the grouse in a pre-heated hot oven (230°C/450°F, gas mark 8) for 15 minutes. Remove the fat, dust the birds with seasoned flour and roast them for 10 minutes more (or for five minutes more if the grouse are very small, or if they will be rested for longer than 10 minutes). Rest the birds in a warm place for 10 minutes before serving the breasts only, just as they are, or set on a crouton of fried bread which has been spread with rough paste of mushroom, onion and the grouse livers sautéed together and mashed.

Reluctantly, I discard the legs, which are both stringy and bitter.

The only problem with grouse is gravy, because grouse stock, too, is invariably and undeniably bitter. Stock made with the carcasses of other game birds is a better alternative, and tinned game consommé offers another choice.

This week I was going to try a long and fairly fancy recipe for pheasant poached in grape, orange and pomegranate juice, with skinned walnut halves for good measure. I was not looking forward to skinning the walnuts, which is one of those fiddly jobs like peeling Jerusalem artichokes. Then I came across a much simpler recipe which combines the first of this season's pheasants with the last of summer's fresh herbs - deliciously.

It comes from the *L.L.Bean Game and Fish Cookbook* by Angus Cameron and Judith Jones (Random House, New York).

Roast pheasant with herbs
Serves four to six

4 shallots, quartered
6 medium-sized mushrooms, sliced
1 teaspoon chopped basil
2 teaspoons chopped tarragon
8 tablespoons chopped parsley
1 tablespoon brandy
4 tablespoons butter, softened
2 young pheasants
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Very finely chop, process or grind together with a pestle and mortar the shallots, mushrooms and herbs. Strain off any liquid and mix in the brandy and softened butter. Chill the stuffing until it is needed.

If the pheasants have been trussed and barded, remove and discard the strings and fat. Loosen the skin from the breast meat using your fingers, and also loosen the skin from the thighs.

Salt and pepper the birds inside and out and insert a layer of the herb butter between the meat and skin of both breast and thighs. Put any remaining stuffing inside the birds and truss them as usual.

Roast the pheasants in a pre-heated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for about an hour, basting occasionally. Rest the birds after roasting for about 10 minutes before carving and serving.



Fare with fowl: grouse for roasting (left) and a pheasant, ideal with herbs

New chapter on bringing up baby

Books on baby care have existed, if not for as long as there have been babies, then at least since there has been a literate readership who felt the need of an outside opinion on whether or not to use swaddling, and whether oil of almonds or syrup of roses was the better purge for a newborn baby's digestion.

Not surprisingly, when nearly half the babies died before they reached the age of five (most of them before their first birthday), the first books concentrated on how to ensure that children survived those crucial early months; but around the mid-18th century, opinions on the "government" of infant minds and morals began to assume an important position in baby care literature.

The market for child care manuals today is booming and the first-time parent may be bewildered by the choice of guides available. Insinuated among the perfectly ordinary advice given in such books is a reflection of current ideology, a kind of "state of the art" update not only on how children should be primed for life, but also on far wider issues.

The notion that "the child is father to the man" and that, in rearing a child, you are assuming responsibility for the training of a future citizen of the state, has meant that people other than parents, midwives and doctors believe that they have a stake, even in such intimate matters as toilet training or breast feeding.

In *The Essential Father*, a new book likely to be the first of many written specially for the first-time father, Tony Bradman continues the involved father's journey from the delivery room into the nursery and beyond. He takes issue not only with such topics as paternity leave and fathers' visiting rights in maternity wards, but also with such vexed questions as housework and job sharing.

He even advocates a system of state benefits to ensure that men do not have to increase their working hours to cover the costs of a new baby at the very time when they should be at



home being part of the family. The book is somewhat dewey-eyed and emotional, but it redresses the balance of the "wait until your father gets home" school.

Apart from the still enormously popular Doctor Benjamin Spock, today's best-selling writers are Penelope Leach, who has borrowed extensively from child development studies to present a creative and imaginative approach to baby care; Miriam Stoppard, whose cheerful practicality is the most realistic advice on the market; and Dr Hugh Jolly, whose rather scientific delivery is now unfashionably dated.

Mother-of-four Christina Hardyment, an historian, is however more sceptical than most after her exhaustive research for her book *Dream Babies*, and mistrusts child care books - not so much for the actual advice they contain but because there are so many isolated, lonely mothers with little previous experience of small children, who will believe what the book says rather than their own gut reactions. Myths about babies are still created, although some - such as potty-training at three months or a belief in cold baths - have happily gone the way of the gooseberry bush and the stork.

She questions, for example, the unchallenged acceptance of the application of ideas derived from child psychology - from work with disturbed or backward children - to normal children. The Montessori programme was initially devised to improve the education of subnormal children, and may be rather boring for others. And does a toddler really gain less from toddling a kitchen cupboard than from some expensive toys?

By including a great deal of information gleaned from child

psychology, baby care manuals may lead parents to worry that they can somehow invisibly damage their children by rowing in front of them, going out to work, mistaking emotional cues, moving house, or leaving another baby - literally anything.

Now that the infant mortality rate is lower than ever in the West, all that most parents have to be anxious about is their children's emotional stability and rate of intellectual achievement. The way a child behaves - its ability to come to terms with its environment and to learn new skills, is no longer objec-

tified, but seen as a reflection of its parents' psychological health and skill in "parenting".

Ironically, while feminism has done much to improve services and widen choices it has also helped to set up impossible ideals, and mothers seem to have fewer rights now than did their suffragette forebears.

Having read about the trauma and baby experiences at birth, how can an expectant mother be so feeble as to disregard the emotional needs of her unborn child and wish for painless oblivion? Breast-feeding, passionately advocated by Drs Andrew and Penny Stanway, is no longer merely an issue of what food gives a child its best chance in life, but of whether the baby will love you and be healthy psychologically if deprived of the breast.

While the books are enormously helpful when it comes to choosing equipment or giving relief to a teething baby, a glimpse of just how absurdly wrong earlier child care experts have been is a great help in countering today's myths.

Isabelle Anscombe

THE BEST BABY BOOKS

Highly recommended *Baby and Child* by Penelope Leach (Penguin, £7.95). Written "from your baby or child's point of view", she has an illuminating and empathic approach, but sets high standards. The book has a useful encyclopaedia/Index, but lacks practical sections on equipment or travel.

Dr Spock's Baby and Child Care (40th Anniversary Edition) by Benjamin Spock and Michael B. Rothenberg (W. H. Allen, £3.50). Eminent, wise, sensible and sensitive, but a little distracting in tone, as it is still addressed to the Middle America of the 1940s and 1950s.

The Baby Care Book by Miriam Stoppard (Dorling Kindersley, £8.95 paperback). Divided into sections on sleeping, feeding, equipment, and so on. Useful and thorough, if a little brisk. Not short on love and affection, but puts parents' rights well to the fore.

Good background *Dream Babies: Child Care from Locke to Spock* by Christina Hardyment (Jonathan Cape £9.95 paperback, and Oxford University Press, £4.95, paperback). A scholarly and hugely entertaining history of child care manuals. *Babyhood* by Penelope Leach (Penguin, £4.95). An unillustrated survey of a child's physical,

psychological and emotional development, written to give parents easy access to research material used by professional experts. The author admits that it gives "an unrealistically dedicated" view of parenthood.

Useful *Book of Child Care* by Hugh Jolly (George Allen & Unwin, £12.95; revised and illustrated edition). Written by the doctor rather than the parent, it concentrates on avoiding mistakes and gives a rather unjoyful view of parenthood. It has an excellent section on children's illnesses.

The Parents' A to Z by Penelope Leach (Penguin, £6.95). A practical encyclopaedia of illnesses, feeding, sleeping, problems, etc. *The Baby and Child Book* by Drs Andrew and Penny Stanway (Pan, £4.95). An A-Z of everything from bed-wetting to photographing children, from moving house to dirt-eating; the authors stress an instinctive, "natural" approach to child care.

The Macmillan Guide to Child Health edited by David Hull (Macmillan, £12.50). Useful to keep on the shelf, but too specifically medical for a parent wanting general guidance.

The Essential Father by Tony Bradman is published by Unwin Paperbacks (£2.95).

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THE TIMES DIARY

Controversy exhumed

More than 80 years after Queen Victoria's death, Buckingham Palace is determined to suppress some intriguing new light on her relationship with her gillie, John Brown. Diaries kept by Victoria's physician, Sir James Reid, now being edited for publication by his grandson's wife, reveal that the queen was buried with some of Brown's artefacts by her side. The items are detailed in Sir James' minute doctorily handwritten, but Lady Reid will not discuss what they are. "The royal librarian, Sir Robin Mackworth-King, has asked me not to mention them. I would not want to do anything to offend the Palace," she says. Lady Reid has spent two years on the diaries and hopes to finish the work next year. The 39 volumes had lain neglected in a family box room until Sir James' son's death in 1972. Buckingham Palace yesterday refused to discuss correspondence between her and Sir Robin, who has retired.

A bike apart

No ministerial limousine whisked junior environment minister Sir George Young around Blackpool this week: he brought his bike on the train to the Tory conference determined to cycle everywhere. And, for the first time he could remember, he did not have to lock it. When he arrived at the fortress of the Imperial Hotel on Monday, he rode through three police checks, propped the bike against a wall, and walked in. No thief from outside could penetrate the security, he reasoned. And no one inside the hotel would be seen dead on it. It was with some trepidation then that police broke him the news that his bike was in a hundred bits at the police station. Their night-shift had forgotten to tell their day-shift and the bike had been whisked away as a security risk.

Tebbit's tribute

Few delegates noticed the poignant last-minute change in the service that marked the opening of the Tory conference. The hymn Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun, though printed in the conference handbook, was not sung. It was replaced, at Norman Tebbit's request, by I Vow to Thee My Country. On the first anniversary of the Brighton bomb that has left his wife Margaret paralyzed for life, it is not hard to see why Tebbit thought appropriate a hymn whose words include: "The love that asks no questions: the love that stands the test".

Old story

Yes, Robert Maxwell will turn up as planned at the Tory conference to face the music over *The Mirror's* publication of the Sara Keyes story. I hope someone asks him if her book repeats her public statement that one particular newspaper pursued her before the Parkinson affair broke - even to the extent of a luckless reporter accidentally crashing his car into hers. It was, you may recall, *The Mirror*.



Barry Fantoni
ARCHITECT

"I'm designing an inner city riot area. How about you?"

Whimsical

The Dorothy Sayers Literary Society pulled a good one in *The Times* yesterday: it placed a golden wedding announcement under the name Winsey-Vane. By celebrating the entirely fictional marriage of Lord Peter Winsey and his blue-stocking bride Harriet, we are apparently in good company. The society's chairman, Ralph Clarke, tells me Balliol's records name Winsey as a former student.

Charitable

A strange attack of coyness has caused someone at the GLC to censor a draft written reply about Clive Jenkins' chairmanship of a GLC-backed property company. Jenkins, general secretary of the ASTMS white-collar union, was paid £7,500 a year to chair the London Enterprise Developments Ltd. we are told, the following sentence reads: "Under the contract he was expected to spend one and a half days per quarter on LED business" - but this was crossed out. Why? No comment from Jenkins, but a spokesman for the GLC offshoot which owned LED told me that Jenkins spent so much extra time on LED business that at one stage they were considering paying him more. Even with all Jenkins' overtime, LED's joint venture with a private property company has folded. As a result it had to pay £16,467 on terminating Jenkins' contract which he generously gave to charity - ratepayers please note. Moreover, as I reported last week, one property which it bought has now been independently valued at less than its original price. PHS

Rates: reform no one needs

As the Conservatives debate local government finance, David Walker explains why there must be change - and why it will be unpopular

healthy scepticism about the game at which he is such an accomplished player. He will say what is required about great reforms to come for two reasons. Like the abolition of the Greater London Council and the metropolitan counties, rates reform has become a gut prime ministerial commitment, almost supra-national in its intensity. She will, therefore it will be.

There is, moreover, a strong sense that "something must be done". Baker, having been handed the poisoned chalice of local government finance, is making sure things are seen to be done, though, because he is cleverer than his predecessor, he seems determined to associate his cabinet colleagues fully with the decisions and so make sure he is not left hanging in the wind.

One of the beauties of local government finance is that most of what there is to say about it has been said before, in official reports and by politicians of both main parties. Baker now reiterates in dramatic form the warning given 10 years ago in the Layfield report commissioned by Harold Wilson: either we move back to a system in which councils have more discretion, more freedom (and this must mean giving them another way of raising their money besides the rates), or we look to Oliver Cromwell, commissioners running local services and talk of removing major functions from councils to the central government. Being a Tory, Baker puts this

rather differently. He wants not so much discretion for the councils under the first option, but more say for the taxpayer and elector, the idea being that they will put pressure on high-spending councils. Baker says openly that the Government can no longer try to screw down council spending from the centre that would produce "strife, agony and real warfare".

The second option - sending for the major-general is how Baker puts it - would involve, say, schools and colleges being administered by the Department of Education and Science rather than local authorities, and social services coming under regional health authorities rather than councilors. The British people could live with such centralization, but what would happen to "the British constitution" or Tory protestations of anti-statist philosophy? Baker says fairly clearly that he could, if necessary, travel this road, but he would prefer not to.

Which leaves the first option of rates reform and its dire prospect of little old ladies - possibly even Finchley voters who after the calculations end up paying more, not less, in taxes. And can Baker proceed with reform without once uttering a word that has entered the lexicon of Conservative swear words - revaluation? Any tax based on property depends on accurate measurement of property's value. In Scotland revaluation has given the Tory party and rocked the nation. Revaluation in England could be twice as disastrous.

Intellectually, of course, there is a strong case for giving councils a buoyant tax base that will allow central government to reduce its support grants. The system would look simpler, even if adequate provision is made for the social needs of the cities. The object is to give councils greater freedom, while making them more accountable to those who pay for them.

Intellectually, again, it would be easy to tolerate a high-spending Sheffield (its expenditure would be collectively by the townsfolk) and a low-spending Solihull (ditto); but this would require Whitehall, with its insistence on uniform standards in schooling and social services, to be reeducated, let alone the Tory voters of Sheffield and the non-Tory voters of Solihull.

There is, of course, a third option. It is to do nothing, or rather to tinker with the existing system in a way that minimizes political costs and keeps the show on the road at least until the next election. It is an option a number of Baker's colleagues would favour if they were allowed to. Baker utters no such disloyalties. There will be no hint today of any lack of enthusiasm for rates reform.

But listen carefully. He may well give some small space to the inner cities in this speech or others this week; he will not emulate Michael Heseltine, but there will be sparks of genuine concern for regenerating derelict urban areas. And there may be some space, though the main debate is another day, for "greenery", the preservation of the countryside and the newfound equation of Conservatism and conservation. On these subjects Baker can be lyrical. They are good subjects for a politician's reputation. Unlike rates reform.

Peter Kellner

When TV serves some purpose

The essence of last week's Labour Party conference - and of Neil Kinnock's determination to become prime minister - was captured just after he attacked Liverpool City Council's decision to sack its workers. That passage of the speech was dramatic enough; but what followed turned drama to catharsis. When Eric Heffer walked off the platform and, simultaneously, Derek Hatton, Liverpool council's deputy leader, stood up and shouted "liar" at Kinnock, the cleavage between Kinnock and Labour's far left became visible and manifestly permanent.

It became visible because it was on television. At the time I was on Channel 4's commentary bench inside the Bournemouth conference hall. The commentary seats were arguably the best in the hall: above floor level but not too far back from the platform. Yet the best way to follow those dramatic moments was to watch our TV monitors. A handful of delegates in the hall could see the anger on Heffer's face; others could observe Hatton's fury; yet others, at the front, could follow Kinnock's calm, unflinching reaction. Not one delegate could see all three. Only TV viewers could.

The point goes beyond the familiar one about cameras taking an event into millions of homes (although, by the time this episode had been repeated in every news bulletin, most people in Britain must have seen what happened). Beyond that, television assembled the fragments of what happened and created a coherent set of images. No matter that the fragments themselves were unco-ordinated, that Heffer's and Hatton's reactions were separate and spontaneous: the accumulation of TV pictures constructed a story that could not have been more vivid had Kinnock, Heffer and Hatton conspired to plan each move in advance.

After Kinnock's speech it became clear that few delegates were following the rest of the afternoon's debates. Had BBC or Channel 4 remained with the speakers in the hall they would have distorted grotesquely what was happening. Instead they followed up the speech like a rolling news programme.

At the time I thought the TV coverage was solely for the benefit of viewers at home. In fact, a significant proportion of delegates were crowded round monitors spread throughout the conference centre, cheering or heckling each other. The final inversion had been achieved: television had come to Bournemouth to watch the delegates, but for about an hour many delegates instead watched television.

In terms of what was politically significant, then, most people at Bournemouth seemed to share the priorities of the television producers. But I dare say, even as I write this column, there are people penning angry letters to complain that the two channels ignored the debate on transport policy that followed Kinnock's speech.

I can see it now: "Dear sir: I switched on my television to see how the Labour Party proposed coming to grips with the need for a fully integrated transport policy. This is an extremely important subject for a great many people, and while I did not expect the subject to be covered in any detail on the news bulletins, I did feel that the daytime conference coverage would cover the

debate fully. Instead we were treated to the outpourings of people to the outpourings of petty internal party politics, rather than the speeches of those delegates who had something to say about one of Britain's most serious problems."

Much the same point was made after Channel 4 opted out of part of the debate at the Liberal assembly in Dundee on women's rights when behind the scenes, one of the main talking points was Liverpool - a city talking points was Liverpool - a city talking points was Liverpool. To reflect this aspect of what delegates were discussing, we broadcast an interview with Simon Hughes, the party's spokesman on the environment.

Channel 4 was immediately inundated with calls attacking it - often attacking me, as I was doing the commentary at the time - for leaving the women's debate. On *Right to Reply* the following week I was charged with being a sexist for



Heffer: his walk-off part of a cohesive pattern

"my" decision. (In fact, the producer sitting next to me and the Channel 4 commissioning editor sitting behind, who were in charge of our coverage, were both women; but in the heat of such arguments the details tend to get lost.)

As it happens, our intention had been to broadcast the interview during the previous debate, on licensing hours. But this turned into the liveliest of all the Liberals' debates, with speeches on the dangers of alcoholism clashing head-on with libertarian views about people's right to choose when they drink. In its way the debate provoked a vivid discussion about the limits of liberalism, so we chose to broadcast it in full.

The wider point, however, is that formal plenary debates are only one part of the events that comprise a party conference. Speeches and resolutions provide the framework within which other business is transacted. Fringe meetings take place, plots are hatched, deals are struck and former allies stabbed in the back.

If anything, the accusation against the broadcasters should be that we show more reverence than all except the most assiduous delegate to what goes on in the conference hall itself. So if, this week, we opt out of one or two Conservative conference speeches on the common agricultural policy or local government in order to catch the odd comment on Sara Keyes, I can promise this: what we broadcast is just a pale shadow of what is really being said about her in the bars of Blackpool's Winter Gardens.

The author is political editor of the *New Statesman* and co-presenter of Channel 4's daytime party conference reports.

moreover... Miles Kington

On a wing and a prayer

Part Three of our remorseless football yarn, Gary of the Gulf

(Story so far: Gary Threlbut, once manager of Chepstow Charlies, is now supreme of Gulf Rovers, an Arab team which could get into the World Cup Finals if only they beat much-fancied Suez Zone. He can only communicate with his players via translator Aziz, and is constantly being pestered by the national football director, Sheikh Hassan. On the other hand, he is getting paid £700,000 a year. Now read on.)

Gary arrived early at the National Stadium (capacity 80,000, biggest ever crowd 1,500) for the last practice session before the vital Suez Zone encounter and went out to jog round the ground. He liked to keep fit. There wasn't much else to do round here. The pitch was a brilliant green, the only stretch of grass in the whole country. Sheikh Hassan had had the turf flown in at tremendous expense from Ireland, which probably explained the plague of shamrock in midfield.

As he trotted round to the far goal, he was surprised to see a man digging up the precious sward from behind the goalmouth. "Hey! What are you doing?" he shouted.

The man looked up. It was Aziz, his faithful translator. "Oh, Mr Threlbut, hello and all that. I am merely borrowing a little grass from here for my garden. I am sure you are not minding."

Gary assured him that he was minding a lot, and fired him on the spot. Then he reined him, as Aziz will after all his only link with the enthusiastic if raw recruits of Gulf Rovers.

"I'm very pleased with the progress of young Wazir," he said. "He could cause Suez Zone a lot of problems down the wing. He asks all the right questions."

"What questions are these that he is asking? I will translate for you."

"No, I mean that he will be sending the opposition the wrong way on Saturday."

"Alas," said Aziz, "young Wazir will not be with us on Saturday. The young devil will be going on the pilgrimage to Mecca."

"What?" cried Gary. "He bloody well won't. He'll be playing for Gulf Rovers."

"He bloody well almost certainly won't. This is the occasion of his life for him, by bloody heck," said Aziz, who liked to show off his command of the vernacular now and again.

"But we haven't got anyone else to go on the wing!"

"Not so, O Threlbut. We have you. I hear that you have been a bloody fine winger in your time. You can spread your wings and fly down the touchline for us, O Threlbut."

Now that Aziz mentioned the idea, it sort of appealed to Gary. To appear in the World Cup at the age of 45 - well, it was bloody attractive, pardon my Arabic, thought Gary. By gum, this would make the *Chepstow Herald* and no mistake.

Then the sky darkened and a helicopter flew down out of the early sun, doing all sorts of damage to the shamrock, daisies and plantain in midfield. Sheikh Hassan stepped out, wearing the flowing robes which did so well at Harrods instead of a credit card. "Hail, O Threlbut," he orated. "What ominous developments have you to report? You can always tell a *Guardian* reader, thought Gary."

"Nothing much," said Gary, "except that Wazir will not be available for the game on Saturday and I will be playing instead."

"This is good," nodded Sheikh Hassan. "Of course, this means that you will have to turn Muslim. Only Muslims can play for our team. But you have five days in which to be received into the faith. This is time enough. Well done, O Threlbut."

"But," said Gary, "I was too late. The sheik had already taken off in his helicopter. Gary sighed. Blimey, as if training wasn't hard enough already."

"This is bloody inconvenient for you," said Aziz.

"Too bloody right, thought Gary."

(Will Gary be able to appreciate the historic importance of Islam in time for the match, and get married to four wives as well? Don't miss tomorrow's thrilling instalment.)

Robert Fisk charts the complex feuds that lie behind the liner hijack

Cairo One balmy afternoon in September 1982, one of Yasser Arafat's close aides was standing by the gates of Beirut port, waiting to be evacuated with hundreds of other Palestinian guerrillas - under the eyes of the Israeli army. "It's not the end," he said, "but things are going to get bad. We are not going to get our homeland and the Americans will go on backing Israel. Abu Amar (Arafat) is already being criticized by his own people. You are going to see bad things happen, and they are going to call us 'terrorists' again."

A few minutes later, the man boarded a Greek passenger ferry alongside Arafat, his predictions later began to be fulfilled. He himself was one of the first defectors, settling in Damascus in open defiance of Arafat's chairmanship of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Arafat put his hands to his face when I asked him about it later. "I could not believe it when I heard," he said.

Now the disintegration is gathering speed as the Palestinian factions loyal to Syria tear the PLO to pieces. The word "terrorist" is again identified with Palestinians: Arafat's enemies, Palestinians among them, are bringing this about, and the "peace process" that curious almost chemical, ever so American phrase with which Washington characterizes its Middle East policy - is on the point of crumbling away altogether.

The seizure of the Italian cruise liner off Egypt was an act as inevitable as it was appalling, at one blow embarrassing President Mubarak of Egypt, cutting deep into any credibility that Arafat has left, and reinforcing the western concept of Palestinians as irredeemably wrong, their cause unworthy of serious discussion. It was Italy which so vehemently condemned Israel's air raid on Arafat's Tunis headquarters last week; the Italians will think themselves cruelly repaid.

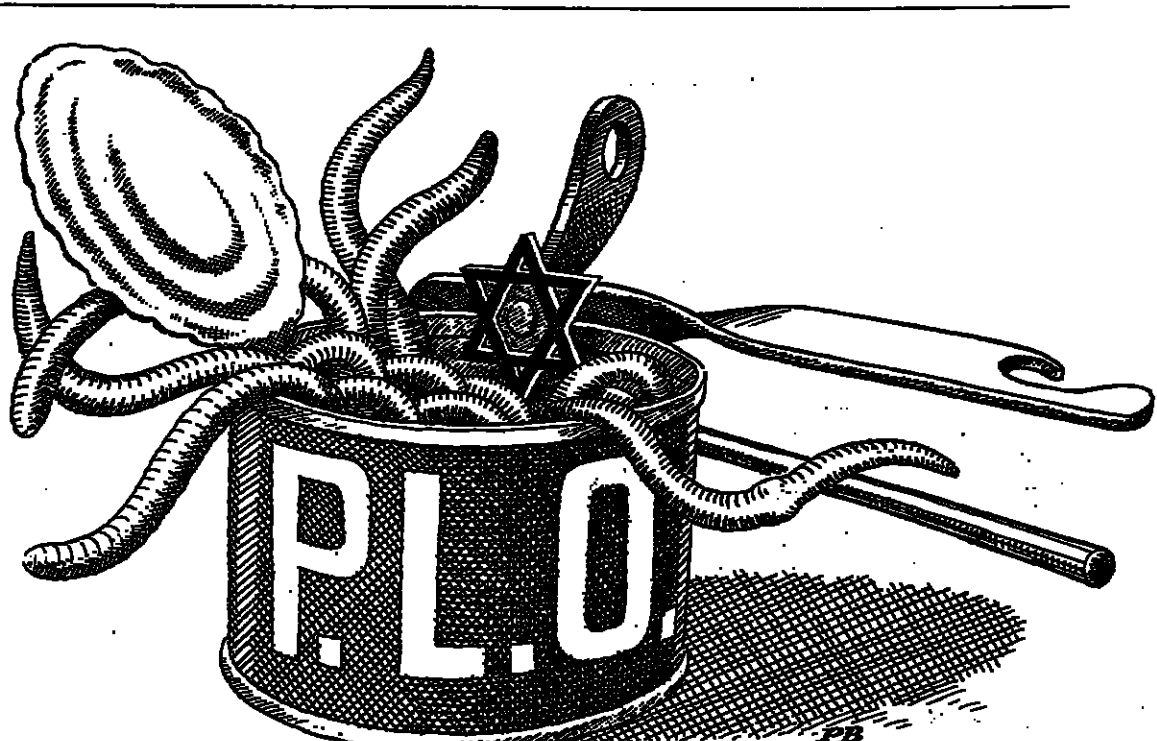
Even Mrs Thatcher - who so blithely invited two of Arafat's more respectable functionaries to London - must be watching events with the gravest concern. Her tiny initiative has already involved Britain in the Palestinians' ruthless inter-factional conflict: the two PLO men due to meet Geoffrey Howe were immediately sentenced to death by the assassin's squad of Abu Nidal, whose offices currently grace a road in the Damascus suburbs. How many British ambassadors in the Middle East feel as safe now as they did a month ago?

Already the moderate Arab states - again, the word "moderate" is more an American definition than an Arab one - fear they can go no further in their Palestinian initiative. For months now, King Husain has been expressing expertise in private, the deepest misgivings about President Reagan's will to create a lasting peace in the Middle East, even about his comprehension of events there. Zaid Rifai, the Jordanian Prime Minister, is urging the king to reconstruct his relationship with Syria on the grounds that no serious progress can be made in the Middle East without Damascus.

Rifai, a man whose influence is growing by the week, regards the PLO as both dangerous and irresponsible and its chairman as a *muharrir*, a buffoon. After months of the PLO repeatedly qualifying its acceptance of UN resolutions, appearing to recognize the right of Israel to exist and then denying any such intention, it is not difficult to see why even Husain - whose loyalty to Arafat has been truly honourable - is near to despair. Doubtly so when he realizes how Arafat's own Palestinian enemies can prompt the Israelis to bomb his headquarters.

Nor is it only the regional powers who are losing their patience. The Soviet Union is showing increasing signs that it is fed up with Palestinian squabbling, its private letters to Arafat reportedly showing ever greater signs of irritation.

In his enthusiasm to repair relations with Syria, King Husain is now acting in concert with President Assad when he calls for an international conference at which the Soviet Union - Syria's principal ally - would exert the same influence as the United States.



A cause on the brink of suicide

Arafat is now talking darkly about "another Yalta" - a superpower conference at which the Palestinians would be irretrievably betrayed, their land lost forever at the convenience of Moscow and Washington.

There is certainly cause for frustration in the region among the superpowers. The Soviets are now under equal threat with the Americans in Lebanon and their experience has brought them to a closer understanding of Washington's fears. Only an hour after the body of Arkady Katkov, the murdered Soviet diplomat, was identified last week, his best friend was talking of the irrationality of extremist Islamic groups, of how one could not talk with men who thought only in terms of spiritual morality.

In Lebanon, the powers opposed to Washington and Moscow - and opposed to Syria and Israel too - are growing in strength, their support fuelled by the distaste that many Arabs, especially the Lebanese, feel towards those special standards that the western powers apply to the Middle East.

Why, they ask, is the killing of Israelis by Palestinians or Lebanese an act of terrorism while the killing

of Lebanese civilians by Israeli pilots - in vast numbers during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon - is regarded as an act of war? Why are Lebanese who attack the Israeli occupation army and their surrogate militia called "terrorists" while the Israelis' own locally-recruited force - which has murdered UN soldiers and regularly kidnaps villagers regarded as hostile - is respectfully called the "Free Lebanon Army" or, more recently, the "South Lebanon Army Militia"?

Alghans who resist occupation - even by murdering local pro-Soviet Alghans and their families - are rebels in the West's parlance; Palestinians who resist occupation with equal brutality are terrorists. Why? These questions are asked many times in the Arab world, and the failure to receive a convincing reply has helped reinforce a growing belief that neither West nor East is going to struggle for a just peace in the region.

Soviet rhetoric is no more reassuring. Lebanese Muslims have noted that the Sunni Muslims fighting for their land in Afghanistan are "terrorists" in Soviet eyes. They have noted, too, how Moscow's Syrian ally has spent more resources

crushing Palestinian and Muslim dissent than it has fighting Israel.

For Syrians were not laying siege to Tripoli last week merely because they were irritated by the Sunni militia that happened to control the city. The Sunni of Tripoli have family and political ties with their Sunni relatives just across the mountains in the Syrian city of Hama, where an insurrection broke out against President Assad in 1982. The Syrians crushed it with great savagery; the resurgence of militant Sunni Islam in Tripoli struck at the heart of Syria's own domestic problems.

Now Syria's Shia Muslim allies in Lebanon, Amal, are threatened by a far more serious, anti-Syrian as well as anti-Israeli, movement in the south of the country. The Hezbollah "Party of God" are fast overtaking Amal in influence, basing themselves around the town of Nabatieh and the village of Irbid. It is they, in unholy league with the Palestinians (both pro and anti-Arafat) who are principally responsible for the attacks against Israel's buffer zone in southern Lebanon - last month alone there were 130 such attacks while 14 Kastyusha missiles fell inside Israel itself.

With Amal under pressure, the only consistent relations the Syrians now have in Lebanon are with the Christians whom they have so often fought and who, until recently, gave their allegiance to Israel. The Christians regard Islamic fundamentalists and Palestinians alike as their enemies. So do the Syrians. It is the old story of common interest, just as there is a common interest between Syria and Israel to prevent the creation of a revolutionary Palestinian state on either of their frontiers.

Moscow and Washington are well aware of this, just as both have reason to feel threatened by the forces newly emerging in the Levant. Powerful influences which could prove as dangerous as the PLO was when Arafat maintained his state within a state in Lebanon. At some stage, perhaps at the Reagan-Gorbachev summit next month, a new understanding will have to be sought on the Middle East, not just a redefinition of the morality of East and West but an agreement to control the nations they support in the region.

Until that happens, it will be easy for the Israelis to portray Arafat's PLO as the source of all evil, to act with impunity against it, however doubtful the evidence of its involvement in the recent murders in Larana and the hijacking of the Italian liner. For if this goes on much longer there will be no PLO left to talk to - and the forces which will be supporting the desperate and ruthless men so anxious to destroy Arafat will prove far more terrifying enemies to Israel and the West than the rather pathetic figures who eventually told King Husain that he could negotiate their land back from Israel. The seizure of the Achille Lauro suggests that it may already be too late.



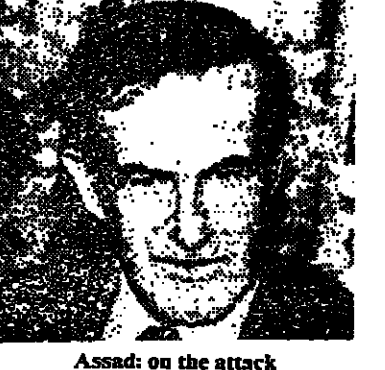
Arafat undermined



Mubarak: embarrassed

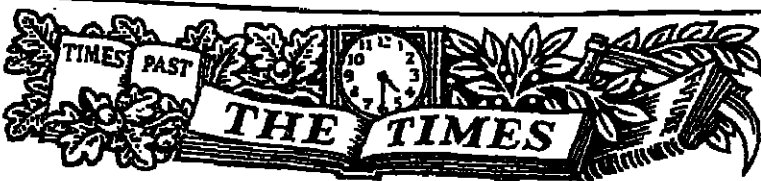


Husain: near despair



Assad: on the attack

مكثان الاصل



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WEALTH AND WELFARE

The debate on Mr Norman Fowler's social security proposals in Blackpool yesterday exposed the difficulties of any kind of fiscal reform that is not backed by unlimited supplies of money. All agreed the need for change and the principles of reform, but many had individual doubts about losses to some that are necessarily involved if resources are to be concentrated where they can most help both welfare and the economy. The proposed abolition of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS) in favour of private provision is by no means the central or the most immediately important proposal in the reform package, however threatening the cost of the present scheme in the next century. But it caught the headlines and has been attacked by special interest groups and potential losers on all sides, threatening to veil in political controversy the tangible and potentially popular gains of more significant elements of the reform, such as the structure of income support.

The pensions industry, which has continually called for greater private pension coverage and won its political battle with the Chancellor to retain extravagantly costly tax privileges for pensions, was particularly grudging about the possibility of a multiplication of modest private funds to substitute for SERPS. Some building societies have proved more eager to fill the gap.

The Secretary of State gave little hint of his latest attitude in his speech yesterday, beyond emphasising the reality of consultation, but the word outside the conference hall in Blackpool suggests that the Government may be preparing to switch from abolition to reforms to cut the unnecessarily high cost of SERPS.

It would certainly do no harm to remove the pensions discussion from the coming White Paper on social security. Indeed it would have the positive advantage of shifting the consideration of pensions from the arena of welfare to their more naturally central role in the Government's strategy to spread individual ownership and control of wealth to the widest

possible extent. Mr Nigel Lawson will no doubt have something to say about this in Blackpool.

There are undoubtedly wider benefits to be drawn from a further switch to private pensions, where the link between contribution rates and benefit rates on the one hand and prosperous industry and sound finance on the other is more clearcut.

It is far-fetched to suppose, however, that pensions are personal wealth in the direct control of individual families in the same sense as an owner-occupied house, investments in family businesses or shares in British Telecom. Occupational pension schemes are invested through financial institutions often almost as distant from the individual as the state. And they must be under the control of employers who are guarantors of benefits and are under increasing pressure from market forces to take a more commercial and less elevated attitude to their heavy pension costs.

The proposal to encourage personal portable pensions goes only some way to answer these drawbacks. Saving would be overwhelmingly through institutions. It would continue to be tied to retirement and would, for the greater part, perpetuate the role of pensions in channelling savings into a form that dies with the saver or spouse. That can remove the choice to consume capital or leave it to the children. To that extent it operates against the natural spread of free wealth through the generations which the Government has done so much to encourage with the sale of council houses.

In a paper published by the Centre for Policy Studies just in time for the conference, Lord Vinson and Mr Philip Chappell, the proponents of personal portable pensions, rightly stress that ownership at second hand, whether through institutions or the state, is a sorry substitute for personal participation in the creation of wealth. A government that is now using its privatization programme as a tool to effect a dramatic widening of share ownership knows

that well enough. But in retaining, in particular, the special tax benefits of pension investment over most forms of personal saving, it has so far failed to draw the full implications. Mr Chappell and Lord Vinson predict that the proportion of net financial assets held by the personal sector through pension and life assurance schemes will have grown from 44 per cent in 1980 to almost 70 per cent by 1988.

Now that the Chancellor's vision of ending allowances to achieve low income tax rates has fallen foul of political realities Mr Lawson should give serious attention to the proposal of Mr Chappell and Lord Vinson that individuals should be able to share equivalent benefits to those of pension funds through Personal Pension Pools (or PIPs in the field of acronyms).

The idea, popular in a slightly different form in the United States, is that individuals could set aside income (without tax deduction) or financial assets into a separate pool that would be free from internal tax on investment returns, but attract full income tax on any withdrawals. The individual would be free to make his investments and free to withdraw capital or income at any time, giving both choice and flexibility.

That is a healthy approach both to encourage personal saving, reduce the institutional bias, address the realities of more flexible retirement and cope with a more ambiguous relationship between employment and personal business.

Mr Lawson will look carefully at the potentially heavy tax turn up and would certainly want to limit contributions to PIPs to start with.

Both he and Mr Fowler, however, should take this as an opportunity to link the discussion of pensions and the spreading of private wealth in a more fundamental way. Fiscal incentives should be geared simply and fully to spreading personal ownership rather than creating a plethora of distorting measures that give with one hand and take away with the other.

A PILLAR TURNED INTO A PROTESTER

The United States government's termination of its general acceptance of the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice is a gesture of no-confidence in the administration of international justice. It is also a blow to the status of international law as a regulatory principle of relations between states. The gesture is intentional, understandable in the Nicaraguan context from which it arises, but scarcely justified. The blow is not intentional. Indeed the State Department says that no diminution of its commitment to international law is implied. The effect of the action is to the contrary.

The picture of a world where intercourse between states is governed by rules of law, and where disputes, whenever justiciable, are submitted to judgment according to firm and settled principles, is of course idealized. Naked power stands between it and reality. Nor could international jurisprudence as it now is bear anything like that weight.

All the same the ideal is one worthy to be kept alive for reasons analogous to those, well understood in more civilized parts of the world, that sustain the rule of law within national jurisdictions. A shell for its survival on the international plane was provided by the League of Nations, and later by the Charter of the United

Nations and reconstituted Court of Justice at The Hague.

The application of law to international relations assumes its strongest form in the mis-called compulsory jurisdiction of the international court. This is in fact the voluntary acceptance by a state, terminable by notice, of the court's jurisdiction in any matter within its competence arising at the suit of another state which has itself assumed the same obligation. The obligation is therefore reciprocal, as for instance with extradition treaties, but the reciprocity is multiple.

Some fifty states have made such a declaration, less than a third of the roll-call of the United Nations. The United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia are among them but few of the larger powers and none from the Soviet block. The court is not much greater than it was in the late 1940s, so the option has not proved to be a growth point in the development of supranational adjudication. Most states prefer to pick and choose in their dealings with the international court by way of ad hoc mutual submission. That is the position to which the United States is now retreating. That example by the premier power in the free world, which there is good reason for Britain not to follow, is a set-back to the cause of arbitration by law in the

conduct of relations between states.

The Administration's irritation with The Hague court comes from its use of the court to get at it about minelaying and other allegations of armed activity. With one dissenting voice, that of the judge from the United States, the sixteen judges of the international court about a year ago rejected a submission of the United States that Nicaragua's application was inadmissible.

It was contended unsuccessfully that because the subject matter of Nicaragua's complaint fell within the competence of the Security Council it was not within that of the court; that the judicial function was unable to deal with ongoing armed conflict; and that Nicaragua's reciprocal declaration of acceptance of the court's jurisdiction was flawed. The United States then withdrew from the case, which has been proceeding without it.

Washington had earlier given notice of temporary and limited modification of its acceptance of "compulsory" jurisdiction by excepting disputes arising out of events in Central America for two years. That took care of that. It is a pity Washington has now carried its displeasure further by an act that can only weaken the court in its marginal but useful place in international affairs.

FROM CRIMINAL TO CIVIL

In Oscar Wilde's day private prosecutions for criminal libel were not infrequent. Now they are very uncommon. Only eight people were committed for trial for criminal libel between 1948 and 1983.

Criminal libel can cover any publication of gravely defamatory matter in writing or some other permanent form. At present it has numerous defects making it a highly unsatisfactory offence. One of its worst features is that, unlike in civil proceedings, truth is no defence: the defendant must in addition show that publication was for the public benefit; hence the legal aphorism, "the greater the truth, the greater the libel". In its latest report the Law Commission proposes that the offence should be abolished, and rightly so.

Where the Law Commission goes wrong, however, is in advocating the creation of a new crime to replace the old one. This offence, to be called "criminal defamation", would be limited to the publication of statements which the maker

knows to be both false and seriously defamatory. Prosecutions would require the Attorney General's consent. Although this offence would not have the discreditable features of the present law, it too would have its dangers and disadvantages.

First, the new crime would in some respects cast its net more widely than the old one. It would, for instance, cover spoken as well as written words, and it would apply not only to defamation of individuals but also to defamation of companies, trade unions, and employers' associations. Secondly, its potential efficacy is highly doubtful, because of the evidential difficulties of proving actual knowledge of the falsity of the defamatory statement. Thirdly, it would put an impossible burden on the Attorney General. When would it be appropriate for him to authorize a prosecution for this new offence? What criteria should he apply? When would it be in the public

interest for the criminal law to intervene? The Law Commission does not say. It had wanted the DPP to take on prosecutions for the new offence, but he wisely declined the invitation. So now, instead, the buck is to be passed to the Attorney General. It is not a very satisfactory way of going about making new laws, least of all in the field of criminal law.

The real question is whether this crime is needed at all. All it would aim at would be seriously defamatory statements, defined as false information about a person "likely seriously to damage his reputation in the estimation of reasonable people generally": it would not affect all the other kinds of malicious falsehoods which can in fact be just as harmful as libels and slanders. Why should the criminal law concern itself with protecting reputations? Surely this ought in principle to be left to the civil law. Parliament should abolish criminal libel and leave it at that.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Quite a job to get the workforce

From Mr John T. Green
Sir, I am involved with the running of two small businesses in the Midlands as well as with the staffing of an office employing four people in Cambridge. One business in Birmingham has, this year, spent thousands of pounds in advertising to obtain staff in the inspection and design departments of a light power presswork company; only a trickle of applicants came forward even though training is provided from scratch.

In response to advertisements locally aimed at those just leaving college for the post of a secretary, I received just four applicants (one of whom I appointed).

A small garage business (in the Midlands again) has advertised three jobs in the past six months: for the post of unskilled petrol-pump attendant (approximately £100 per week for a five-day week) we received two applicants; for the post of general driver (wage according to number of hours) just one applicant; and for the post of mechanic (including young people whom we would send on day release to technical college) five applicants, only one of whom turned up for interviews, times of which were agreed on the telephone.

Sadly, I fear Mr Archer may be right. Yours faithfully, JOHN T. GREEN, 22 Hardwick Street, Cambridge, October 7.

From Mr A. J. Lidderdale
Sir, I am a director of a small but thriving office fitting company who is in the position of offering two new jobs within our firm.

The first, a simple and well paid driving job, has now been offered twice to two separate applicants, both of whom subsequently failed to turn up for work on their first day, one because he was "on holiday".

The second, a job offering employment to a young graduate in building studies, has been thwarted totally by the careers advisory staff of two colleges we approached. After four telephone calls the first college promised they would get someone to phone back and "take the details" (which they have not). The career adviser at the second college was late in to work at 9.45am this morning when I phoned; at 12.30 she had "gone to lunch: better try again about 2pm." and 4.30pm when I phoned she had "gone home".

No wonder we have three million unemployed.

Yours sincerely, A. J. LIDDERDALE, Managing Director, City Contract Services, 87-89 Station Road, Hampton, Middlesex, October 3.

From Mr Rowland Nelken
Sir, I was interested to read in Lord Young's article on the jobless (October 5) that he was mystified by the 200,000 people claiming benefit who also said they had a paid job.

Had the Labour Force Survey interviewed me in early 1983 I would have been in that category. I was earning some occasional money and my unreliable and minute income was being topped up by benefit.

The difficulty was that the Department of Employment had no clear rules on part-time income and sometimes a declaration of a few pounds earned on one day resulted in the suspension of all benefit.

I consulted the Citizens' Advice Bureau, who seemed better able to interpret Department of Employment regulations than Department of Employment staff, and thereafter accompanied my fortnightly claim with a substantiated explanation of my entitlement.

I trust that Lord Young, with his eye for the complexities of the unemployment scene, will ensure that: (a), the rules on part-time working while claiming benefit are made perfectly clear; (b), all his departmental staff understand and can administer them.

This way the incentive to be dishonest by not declaring earnings, or to be idle by not taking on occasional work for fear of losing benefit, will be eliminated.

Yours faithfully, ROWLAND NELKEN, Woodman's Cottage, Oxtorpe, Nottingham, October 6.

From Mr Adam More
Sir, Perhaps Mr Jeffrey Archer could ponder, when taking the Blackpool air, why there are four million people unwilling to seek work under this Conservative Government and only one million under the last Labour Government.

Yours faithfully, ADAM MORE, 24 Nelson Street, Edinburgh, October 7.

From Mrs C. D. P. McDonald
Sir, Having heard Mr Archer's rousing encouragement to the unemployed, I wonder if he is part of a cunning new plan by Mrs Thatcher to persuade us to love Mr Tebbit, who, in comparison with his small, fierce new broom, now seems positively Cheesecake-like in his tolerance and benevolence?

Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH McDONALD, Peckwater, Fine Avenue, Camberley, Surrey, October 7.

Inner-city troubles as special case

From Mr Aubrey Rose
Sir, For those of us who have been close to the British Caribbean community since the 1950s, recent events in Handsworth, Brixton and Tottenham have been heartbreaking. In 1977 a group of us warned the Home Office and the minister of urgent changes that were necessary to avoid police-young people confrontation. Our warnings were ignored.

We now face a tragedy in our cities, which goes deeper than the problems of unemployment and housing. The Afro-Caribbean community in Britain is one with special problems and needs that overwhelm its leaders and give fertile ground for agitators. Every outburst of violence creates an even greater backlash among the majority and other minority communities that could isolate the black West Indian community, to the detriment of all.

Despite all the efforts, especially by religious leaders, human talent is being wasted and bitterness and self-resentment increased. We must recognise the very special problems of this particular community. The only way to do this is to find out the facts. This means an independent specialised enquiry particularly into the community's relationship with authority in all forms as well as its economic and social problems. It is a very special case and needs an urgent and special approach.

Yours sincerely, AUBREY ROSE, Grosvenor House, 349 Regents Park Road, Finchley, N3, October 7.

From Mr O. Carr-Forster
Sir, How much longer will we be made to believe that the outbreaks of violence such as we saw in Tottenham yesterday are the spontaneous reactions of a frustrated minority? The "disturbances" seem instead to have been planned with near-military precision.

Most of the defendants in court arrested after the Handsworth riot of September 9 gave addresses outside Handsworth. Petrol bombs have been used in Handsworth, Toxteth, Brixton (September 30) and Tottenham; indeed, residents of a housing estate near some of the worst scenes in Tottenham interviewed on BBC Breakfast Time this morning said they knew trouble had been brewing for a week. The violence has now escalated to the point of using guns. These are the hallmarks of prepared campaigns.

More significantly - and also more subtly, since no one seems to have noticed this - both the 1981 riots and the recent events have been in the middle of the Conservative Government's term of office, precisely at conference time in the case of Tottenham. Is this, too, simply coincidental?

Yours faithfully, O. CARR-FORSTER, 37 Marlborough Crescent, W4, October 7.

From Mr Melvyn Bragg
Sir, As the party of Government meets for its annual conference, I am sure I cannot be the only one who wants to ask how it will address itself to the distressing state of affairs in which this country finds itself.

We have riots in the cities; we have immense and increasing unemployment; we are utterly dependent on a foreign power for our national defence; we don't know how to address ourselves to fundamental questions of liberty and decency, e.g. in South Africa; our schools are in disarray; useful and enlightening institutions hitherto independent are threatened; manufacturing base has been squandered for dogmatic lack of reasonable investment; and all the talk we get is about image-making.

On this opening day of the conference may we ask the Government to step outside its PR cocoon, look in the eye all the mess it has made and tell us what it intends to do about it?

Yours faithfully, MELVYN BRAGG, 12 Hampstead Hill Gardens, NW3, October 8.

From Mr H. S. Kemp
Sir, It's got to be water cannon. Why the reluctance? A good dose of cold water not only literally takes the heat out of the situation but makes those at the receiving end think twice before getting involved. It is also a fairly innocuous weapon, hardly likely to cause any serious injury, but most effective.

What better way to damp down a rioting mob? Let's give it some serious thought and douse the rousers.

Yours etc, HENRY S. KEMP, 12 Harley House, Upper Harley Street, NW1, October 7.

Schools for the gifted

From the Headmaster of Leicester Grammar School

Sir, The recent plea by the Headmaster of Westminster School for a few National Schools geared to academic excellence (report, October 2) has been severely criticised by spokesmen of all parties, mainly because it would do so much for the few and so little for the many.

This is unfortunately true, although one could point out that there have been many occasions in our history, the most famous being the Battle of Britain, when the many have owed an enormous amount to the skill, high level of training, and dedication to duty and courage of the few.

Minorities, if they are gifted and highly-trained, should not be scorned, neither should élites, provided they are based on meritocratic, not aristocratic, principles. It is nonetheless quite clear that the nation as a whole is not yet ready for a scheme such as Dr Rae proposes, mainly because there are vested interests on both sides which will oppose it: few would regard it as practical politics in the near future.

Where he is surely correct is to point out that from San Francisco to Vladivostok, right across the political spectrum in fact, there are select academies for the gifted. Every nation needs to make the best use of its finest brains, not for the glorification of those who have them, but for the benefits that accrue to the community as a whole if they are highly trained and effectively deployed.

The independent schools educate only 6 per cent of our nation's children, but obtain 50 per cent of Oxbridge places. It is precisely this cult of excellence that the nation needs, and this is why such schools should not be outlawed, but made available to a much greater cross-section of the nation, by means of a much more generous provision than the present, rather limited assisted places scheme.

Yours faithfully, JOHN HIGGINBOTHAM, Headmaster, Leicester Grammar School, Applegate, Leicester, October 3.

ON THIS DAY

OCTOBER 9 1983

Between August 25 and 28 Java and the neighbouring islands were devastated by eruptions from the many volcanoes in the area. Disturbances on the seas and in the atmosphere were felt over thousands of square miles; loss of life was estimated at about 35,000.

THE JAVA ERUPTION.

We have been favoured with the following extract from a letter written by Captain Morris, of the Queensland Royal Steamer Chyabassa, which came from Australia through the Straits of Sumatra September 2.

"At Batavia we got the news of the dreadful accident in the Sunda Straits, of which, of course, you have heard long ago. What a misery no ships were at Anjer. You know that the large island in the middle of the Straits has been in a state of violent eruption for some time past. When we passed in July it was sending up volumes of smoke, but nothing more. Well, it seems that for a few days before Monday, August 27, tremendous reports were heard like discharges of artillery. Sumatra, Singapore, and nearly all over Java. No one could make out exactly where it came from. Then, at 6 in the morning of Monday, August 27, the whole northern portion of Krakatoa disappeared - no one knows where. This was followed by a terrific wall of steam 80ft. high, which swept through Sunda Straits, overturning everything, the whole Java coast submerged, and when the wave returned nothing left but rocks and uprooted trees - lighthouse, Anjer, Merak, all the beautiful line of coast was left by the wave. The high and in that portion alone it is thought 10,000 have perished. The wave swept on to Batavia, tore up all the buoys and broke loose the huge floating dock, grounded a lot of ships, came up the canal that you went up, broke up the wall sending the boats high and then as suddenly receded, leaving the canal nearly dry, but doing little damage beyond the banks. Then the canal gradually filled, and all was as before the only thing left by which you could see that anything had happened was the sending of the boats high and with pumice ashes quite thick, making things look as if it had been snowing. People, of course, in a great fright. The awful news did not reach until, I think, Wednesday, when a pilot came in whose wife had been washed up into a tree and left by the wave. He spoke to the intelligence that Krakatoa had disappeared and the channel blocked. Here was news for me to get! Fortunately, a Netherlands India steamer was expected from the Straits, and we only had to wait. She did not arrive until Saturday afternoon. The commander of the steamer was something awful. The big channel remained clear, he believed, as he came through it, but it was strewn with huge trees, bodies, and fields of floating pumice. Pleasant, was it not, for us? Our agents suggested going by Singapore, but I argued that if our ship could get through I could get the intelligence that Krakatoa was still there. The big channel remained clear, he believed, as he came through it, but it was strewn with huge trees, bodies, and fields of floating pumice. Pleasant, was it not, for us? Our agents suggested going by Singapore, but I argued that if our ship could get through I could get the intelligence that Krakatoa was still there. The big channel remained clear, he believed, as he came through it, but it was strewn with huge trees, bodies, and fields of floating pumice. Pleasant, was it not, for us? 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October 9, 1985

SPECIAL REPORT

PENSION FUND MANAGEMENT/1

The powerhouse threatened by a tide of change

The pensions industry is perhaps as close to disarray as it has ever been. Normally, the fund managers are up in arms over the Government's plan to restructure the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS) and introduce personal plans. It adds up to a working environment of complete uncertainty. Given the fundamental changes which have been proposed, it is hardly surprising that the pensions industry is preoccupied with the implications and how it will be able to cope under a new regime.

It has come as something of a blow to pension fund managers who have been enjoying the benefits of the relative calm which preceded the storm. In terms of their performance they had been having something approaching a field day. In the five years to 1984 the annual return on self-administered pension fund assets was 22.2 per cent for the private sector and 23.3 per cent for local government schemes. In the same period the annual growth in earnings averaged out at 10.3 per cent and prices rose by an average 8.4 per cent.

The fund managers can be reasonably pleased with their performance although the returns really do no more than compensate for the lean years of the 1970s. Investment returns of private sector schemes for instance averaged just 11.3 per cent between 1983 and 1984 compared with average earnings of 11.2 per cent and a price rise of 9.9 per cent in the same period. More marked than the actual returns is the rapid rise in the value of the funds assets. At the end of 1984 the self-administered funds managed assets valued at around £125 billion compared with just £40 billion at the end of 1979. Some estimates currently put the value of the funds at around £150 billion.

With such massive financial clout at their disposal it is hardly surprising that the pension fund managers have become a powerful force around the City of London. They are wooed by stockbrokers, by property companies and they can often have the critical say in whether a company wins or loses a takeover bid. This undoubted power is not flaunted openly and if anything is underplayed by the fund managers.

Some critics have argued that the fund managers do not do enough to influence the managers of companies in which they are major shareholders. Certainly, with a few notable exceptions, there has been little by way of public pressure put

powerful arguments that the fund managers will use to counter the proposals by the Labour Party to repatriate the large bulk of the pensions fund assets which have been invested overseas. In 1979 assets accounted for around 5 per cent of total pension fund assets. That figure also includes the assets of insurance companies and investment and unit trusts although the largest proportion is accounted for by the pension funds.

The National Association of Pension Funds has already voiced its opposition to repatriation of assets, citing the argument that such a move would not benefit the pensioners. That argument is supported by the fact that in three of the last four years it has been overseas equities which have produced the best return for the funds' assets. Since exchange controls were ended in 1979 the funds have been steadily increasing the proportion of their cash flow invested abroad. This has risen from 6 per cent to 16 per cent in the years between 1979 and 1983 although it has now been reduced slightly.

The battle over repatriation is one which the pension funds may eventually have to fight. For the time being, however, their attention is distracted by the more pressing problems which they face. Ironically one of the arguments which has been put up against the proposed changes to the current pensions regime is that it may be totally changed again if a Labour Government comes to power at the next election.

The overwhelming nature of the Government reform has tended to overshadow the other developments which the pension fund managers must face up to.

Even the fundamental question of whether pensioners are getting the kind of increase in their benefits to keep up keep

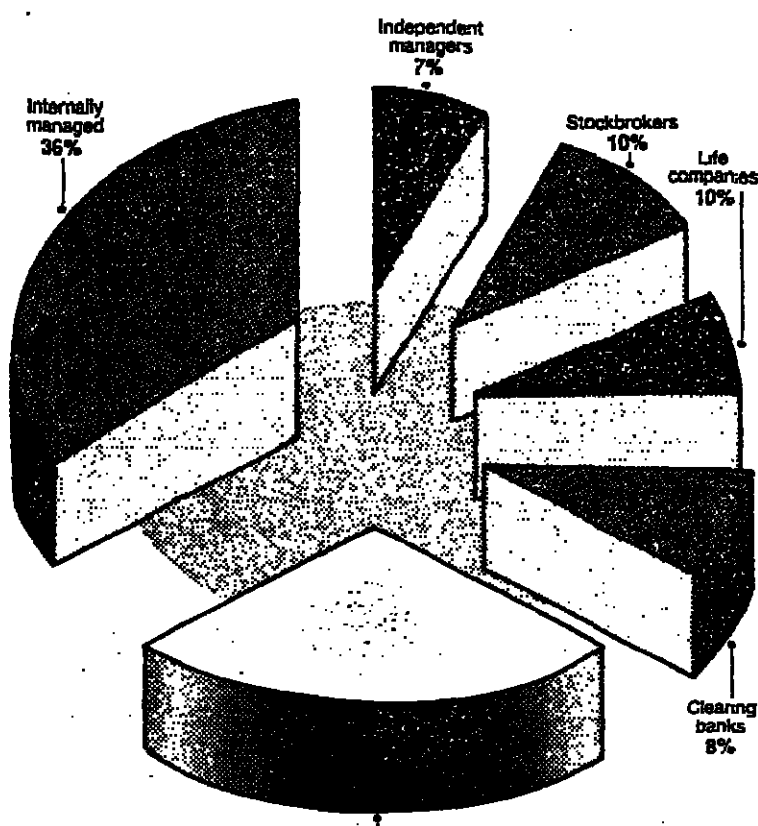
Critics want to see some tight controls

on company management by the fund managers. However, the fund managers do not fight their battles in open court. Much of their work is done in camera. One has only to look at the board room reshuffles at STC and Thorn EMI to realise that the pension fund managers and other institutional investors do not tolerate poor financial performance. When it comes down to protecting their assets the fund managers are prepared to act swiftly and effectively.

It is perhaps the covert nature of the fund managers' power that disturbs the critics, who would prefer to see some tighter control of them. What form that control would take is hard to see. While the fund managers continue to produce the returns which allows them to provide the required pensions for the members of the scheme and maintain the plan's funding it is hard to criticize them.

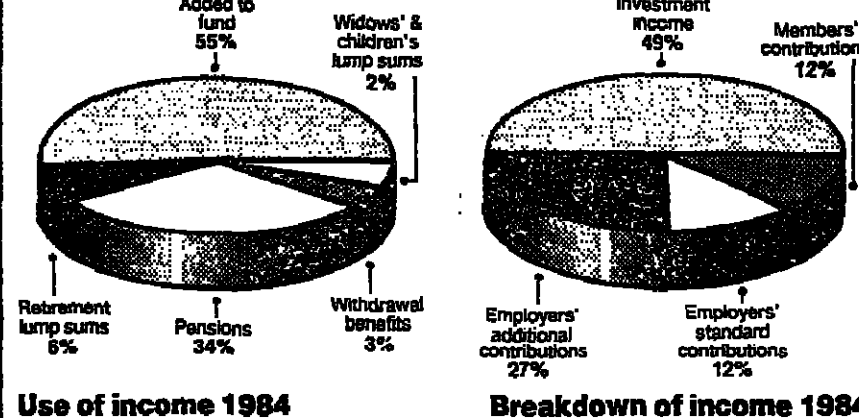
This will be one of the most

What the managers manage



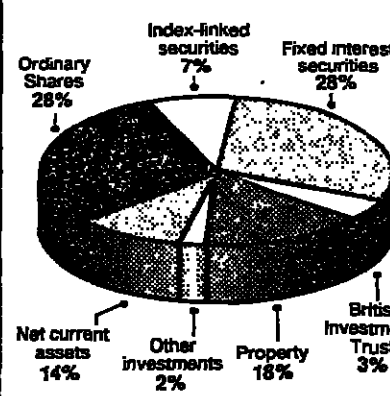
Source: WM Computer Services

The mineworkers' pension fund

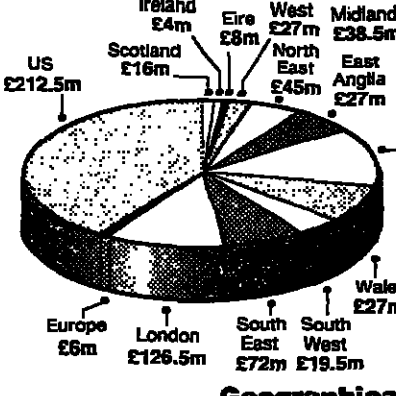


Use of income 1984

Source: Mineworkers' Pension Scheme Annual Report of Accounts 1984



Composition of fund 1984



Geographical spread of property

Millions stockpiled for the miners

The National Coal Board's two pension funds, one for mineworkers and one for staff, are among the biggest in the country. Between them they have assets valued at £6,400 million.

The investment performance of the funds is good with an average total annual return of more than 25 per cent, according to WM Computer Services.

In the year to September 1984, the latest period for which accounts are available, the assets of the mineworkers' fund rose by £460 million to £2,900 million. Half of that improvement reflected an increase in the value of the fund's investments and half represented the excess of income over expenditure. The pattern was similar in the larger staff scheme.

A good performance has

enabled both schemes to increase the level of pensions paid to retired employees. Both schemes lifted payments in line with inflation last year.

The reputation of the two funds, which are managed centrally from the NCB headquarters at Hobart House, London, owe much to the talents of Hugh Jenkins, who, in a surprise move earlier this year, left the NCB after 21 years with the scheme, to run the American operations of Heron International. His successor as fund manager is his deputy, David Prosser.

The NCB funds have been dogged by controversy. Three years ago Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, tried to stop the miners' fund investing overseas or in companies oper-

ating in competing industries such as oil.

Mr Scargill and the NUM-appointed trustees lost their battle in the High Court, where it was confirmed that a trustee's duty is to the scheme's members rather than to the wider social good. As a result the union members withdrew from the management committee and the court appointed replacement trustees.

The accounts of the staff scheme, covering the year to April 1985, reveal that it too has experienced controversy. Last November it held an extraordinary general meeting to debate a resolution opposing the fund's decision to buy shares in British Telecom. The resolution was defeated by 1,850 votes to 1,500 and the fund bought 3.5 million BT shares.

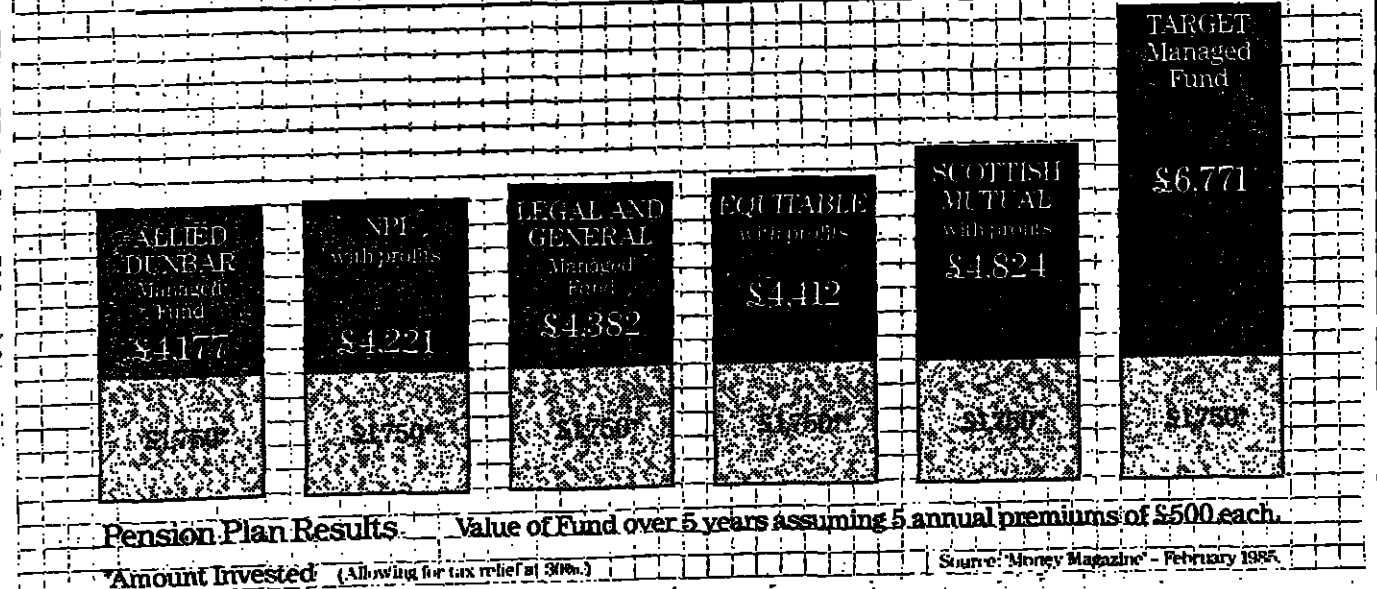
Since the Scargill judgment, the funds have on the whole been able to invest on professional lines without further political interference. For example, overseas shares accounted for 15 per cent of the mineworkers' equity portfolio last September and oil companies figured prominently in the lists of major holdings.

The accounts for the two funds show how their assets were invested. The slight differences between the two portfolios presumably reflects the fact that the year end of the mineworkers' fund was about six months earlier than that of the staff scheme.

For both schemes equities accounted for the bulk of the market value of their investments. The fund manager took the opportunity of buying shares

Continued next page Col. 1

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Millions ready for the miners

Continued from previous page
at last summer's depressed prices and, more recently, of selling certain holdings, at the market's more buoyant levels. As a result, the value of the staff scheme's equity portfolio actually fell during the year.

The miners' fund was more heavily invested in the electronics and oil sectors than was the staff fund. This presumably reflects on the recent fallout in both sectors. On the other hand the staff fund was weighted towards stores and brewers and distillers. With all the hectic bid activity in both sectors the fund should have performed well this summer.

Both funds have small holdings in a number of unlisted companies.

A year ago the miners' fund was 35 per cent invested in gilts, mostly in conventional fixed interest stocks, but in April this year gilts represented only 29 per cent of the staff scheme's fund.

Property is an important area accounting for 18 and 25 per cent respectively of the miners' and staff funds.

In the United States the funds boosted their property interests last year with the acquisition of RAMPAC, an American real estate investment trust with a portfolio of income-producing properties, mainly in California.

The property assets tend to be jointly owned by the two schemes. They are also both

part owners of British Investment Trust, a listed investment trust managed in Edinburgh. The combined market value of the two holdings shown in the accounts is £237 million.

Although they are similar in terms of investment, the two funds are very distinct in terms of membership. The miners' scheme has 180,000 employee members and 250,000 pensioners. By contrast, the staff scheme has a much lighter burden with 60,000 members and 55,000 pensioners.

Whereas the miners' scheme is in deficit, the staff scheme has a surplus. The actuary reassures members of the miners' scheme that the shortfall should be made up from the additional contributions being made by the NCB. Meanwhile, the trustees of the staff scheme are recommending that its surplus is used to improve the benefits paid to widows, and employees who retire through ill health.

Last year the miners' fund had a special problem in that during the pit strike the level of contributions, normally 10.5 per cent of the wage bill, shared equally by the employee and the NCB, was lower than had been expected.

In the report the actuary says it is not yet possible to assess whether the £75 million shortfall will have to be met by further additional contributions.

Clare Dobie

The Scargill factor

Arthur Scargill's High Court defeat dealt a blow to attempts by trade unions to exert influences through their own trustees on how pension funds use their money.

Some union pensions experts even believe the ruling leaves some ambiguity over how far union trustees can press for investments to be made in accordance with the industrial and social interests of the undertaking concerned or even the economy at large, rather than just in the beneficiaries' direct financial interests.

The TUC has tried to influence pension fund investment for some time, though in a less dramatic way than the National Union of Mineworkers, whose trustees refused to authorize investment in the United States, oil interests and other enterprises in accordance

with professional advice. The TUC has encouraged trustees to press for some funds to be channelled into regional enterprise boards like that in the West Midlands where some investments are showing a healthy return, and it wrote to affiliated unions calling on trustees to discourage investment in newly privatized corporations.

This has stimulated discussion by trustees, but with little discernible effect so far on policy.

Finally it has persuaded trustees on a number of funds to limit investment in South Africa.

In most of these cases political arguments have been balanced by ones more likely to appeal to experienced trustees.

Donald Macintyre

Labour Editor



Retirement should be a laugh all the way from the bank - if you joined a good pension scheme

Waiting for you, Mr Fowler

When Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, announced his plans to phase out the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Serps) in a Green Paper last May, cynics muttered that the following White Paper had already been written. The view was widespread that the planned abolition of Serps was politically motivated and the Government would steam-roller it through if necessary.

If the White Paper had indeed been written it must now have been torn up. The Government almost certainly believed its move would find a groundswell of support and is now startled by the torrent of outraged opposition which has resulted. Now Mr Fowler is sounding decidedly conciliatory.

One thing he probably least expected was the virtual unanimity of opposition from the pensions and insurance industry.

For the plan's attempt at far-sightedness, though, they have only praise. No one expects a government to look more than about five years ahead. But the Serp's plans were aimed at preventing a funding crisis somewhere around the years 2020 to 2040. According to current calculations Serps costs £100 million a year now; by 2035 it will cost around £23 billion. The figure makes certain assumptions about birthrates and economic growth. But the overall message



'More unexpected was the insurance companies' opposition'

seems clear, in the not very distant future we will not be able to afford the scheme, so something must be done.

But then comes the criticism. It was predictable from the National Association of Pension Funds, which represents

the majority of traditional fixed benefit company schemes.

The new pensions were to be based on the "money purchase" system rather than the typical company pension basis paying two-thirds of final salary. The company pension funds rightly look on the new pensions era with trepidation.

"We don't know exactly what effect on existing pensions schemes it will all have," said Graham Ferguson, chairman of the NAPP's political committee. "But... traditional schemes are likely to become more expensive as younger employees in particular decide not to join. They are likely to be lured away by the attraction of paying only the two per cent contribution required in the green paper - instead of, say, five per cent required in a group scheme."

The solution, Mr Ferguson believes, is to require anyone leaving a company scheme to continue their contributions to a personal pension at the same level as the scheme they have left.

More unexpected, though, was the even more vociferous opposition of the insurance sector - those most likely to gain from the new order.

The first objection from the pensions insurance companies is, almost to a man, that Mr Fowler had sought to drive a coach and horses through the pensions "consensus." They now no longer know how the next

government, particularly if it is Labour, will treat the Tory proposals. This makes it almost impossible for them to plan and they are moving forward cautiously.

The favourite area for cautious development is in offering small group schemes to companies who have never had pension schemes before but will have to provide them. The strategy is a canny one. If the abolition of Serps had been carried through the schemes would be essential. If Serps either does not disappear or is reinstated by a later government the schemes will still have a value as an attractive employee benefit.

The insurance companies go on to object that the 18-month timetable for the introduction of the new pensions system is absurdly short. No one - the companies selling pensions, the employers, or the Government - will be ready, they say. Many have urged Mr Fowler to delay for at least a year to give institutions time to gear up.

On a more ideological note, the minimum four per cent salary contribution laid down for the post-Serps pension scheme has been unanimously condemned. It is simply insufficient and will not provide the same level of benefit as Serps has done, the companies object.

But behind this argument is a practical consideration. If the minimum pension is set so low the tiny contributions trickling



in from a large section of the population will make such schemes uneconomic to administer for the pensions companies. The cost of looking after a pension scheme is much the same, whatever its size, so the lower paid will end up paying a higher proportion of contributions as management fees to the pensions companies with resultant lower benefits. As one insurance company puts it:

"The problem of cost does not arise with Serps in the same way. Serps reaches the people other pension schemes cannot reach."

The last great objection to phasing out Serps (apart from the Government's complete failure to say anything about the tax aspects of the new system) is on the issue of "contracting out". The Green Paper proposes that all schemes currently not part of the Serps system - in fact most final salary company schemes in existence - should have their National Insurance

rebate reduced. "It will add five percent on to the national wage bill," said Mr Ferguson.

The effect, the insurance industry predicts, will be to force employers to contract their schemes back into Serps to avoid the extra cost. This would cause even greater chaos in the pensions industry and add hugely to the government's future obligations if Serps were to go.

The pensions industry has looked into the abyss of a world without Serps and drawn back. A few say that the gap simply cannot be filled. Most, however, believe that a new system can be evolved if necessary, given time and some essential alterations to the original proposals. But is it really necessary, given the problems inherent in a new system?

The pensions industry feels that the disruption it would cause is hardly worth the candle.

Richard Thomson

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SPECIAL REPORT

Why they are waiting
for the Big Bang

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, struck his deal with Mr Cecil Parkinson, then Secretary for Trade and Industry, in July 1983. It was to ward off the impending restrictive trade practices court case brought by Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading.

Since then events have moved more quickly and more radically than most had foreseen and many have liked. The outcome of the deal was that the Government demanded that minimum commissions be dropped and the stock market opened to outside competition by December 31, 1986, at the latest. The Big Bang has a deadline of December 31 next year, but the Stock Exchange expects all reforms completed at least a couple of months earlier.

On the surface the reforms appeared straightforward, but the implications involved a fundamental restructuring of City institutions and realignment of British financial groups.

Stockbrokers would
have to cut costs

to get them into shape to face the coming competition from overseas financial conglomerates, particularly American ones.

The ending of minimum commissions was welcomed unreservedly by pension fund managers who had long carped at having to pay set commissions on large bargains which gave no discounts for volume and made London one of the most expensive stock markets for them to deal in worldwide. But some of the side effects of ending minimum commissions were less welcome.

At first the Government appeared committed to the continuation of single capacity - the separation of function between stockbroker and jobber. Then it became clear that, if stockbrokers were going to lose their automatic and by no means insubstantial commission, especially on gilt-edged sales, they were going to have to cut costs to survive.

Single capacity provided safeguards to users of the stock market, particularly large funds which could, in most cases rely on being given impartial advice by a broker, but it was also a cumbersome and hence expensive system. Dual capacity

therefore became recognized by most of the big players in the market as inevitable.

In April 1984 the Stock Exchange published its discussion paper on the future structure of the market and made it clear that single capacity had to go. The era of the broker-dealer had arrived. The change had already been recognized by some Stock Exchange members, who had started to tie up with other larger financial institutions to get the capital backing necessary for a market making role.

The pace of mergers quickened. Brokers and jobbers leapt into bed with merchant banks, clearing banks, insurance

size is antipathetic to efficiency and wise investment management. And the Stock Exchange's current refusal to disclose all deals amounts to a crook's charter. The customer has just not been thought about at all.

One of the main concerns of pension fund managers was the quality of advice they could expect from broker-dealers. If a broker-dealer was holding too much stock in a company which he wanted to unload, it could colour his investment advice on the company to a pension fund manager. There was also a fear that pension fund managers, who were part of a large conglomerate that included corporate finance, might have inside knowledge passed on to them which other fund managers would not receive.

Other worries centred on the need to maintain an efficient and orderly market. The new technology system chosen by the Stock Exchange would have to be up to the job. A market in second line stocks would have to be maintained. The prices of

The need for divisions
became more obvious

deals would have to be visible and efforts would have to be made to prevent the fragmentation of the centralized market which exists at present.

Chinese walls, the invisible divisions which supposedly prevent the left hand from knowing what the right hand is doing, became the buzz phrase of the day. As mergers continued apace and more and more previously separated functions became done by one firm - jobbing, broking, research, corporate finance, fund management - the need for divisions became more obvious to prevent proliferating conflicts of interest.

Chinese walls and compliance officers, the new breed of internal policemen appointed by financial conglomerates to try to ensure that conflicts of interest do not harm their clients' interests, have yet to show their paces. Until Big Bang has happened - it is scheduled for around October 1986 - pension fund managers will not know whether the new system will be better or worse than the old.

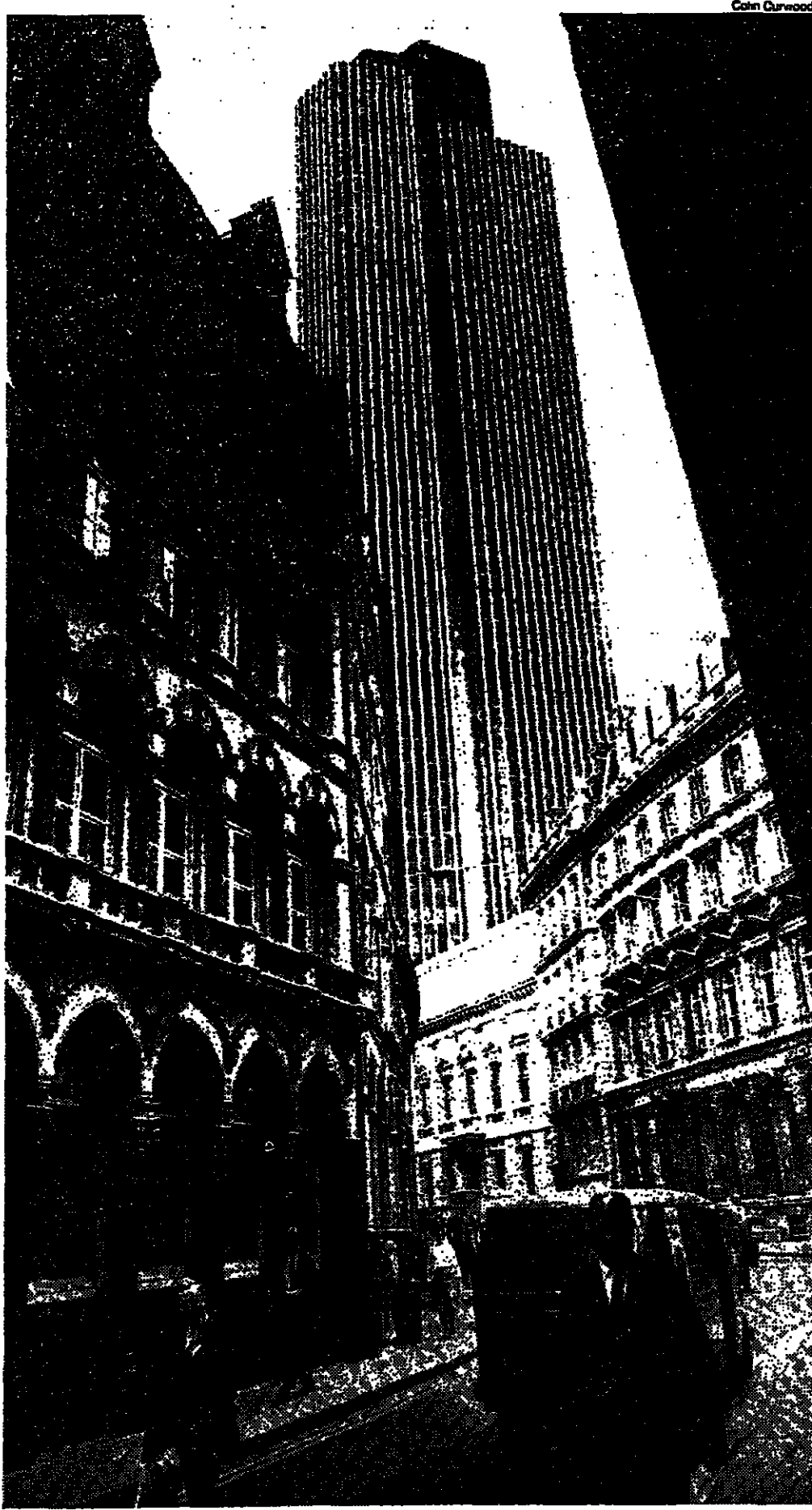
Alison Eadie

David Hopkinson:
Criticized merger mania

companies, financial services groups and overseas banks, until now there are hardly any top-ranking independent Stock Exchange members left.

The change brought with it all sorts of conflict of interest problems which several users of the Stock Exchange were quick to point out. The highest profile and most vocal critic of Big Bang was David Hopkinson, managing director of the M&G unit trust group. He strongly criticized the merger mania gripping City firms as they jockeyed for position and competed for the best staff ahead of the Big Bang.

In one of his most scathing attacks a few months ago he said: "Look at Barclays Bank. It will be a broker, jobber and unit trust manager, as well as being trustee to thousands of funds and individuals. I believe that



The City has now accepted the merger of old and new styles of architecture

Early leavers
can be losers

No one denies the seriousness of the problem. Out of every 100 employees, 85 will change jobs at least once in their working life and many will change more often than that. Under present pensions arrangements these "early leavers" lose out badly on their final pension benefits through leaving a trail of frozen pensions behind them which do not accumulate benefits as they would have if the employee had stayed put.

Last year Mr Norman Fowler, the social services secretary, proposed a new system of portable pensions which, now following Blackpool, may be subject to reappraisal. It would be based on the money purchase system where a fixed level of contributions built up a fund of open-ended value, rather than the final system of traditional company schemes where contributions might vary but the final benefit was fixed.

In an attempt to placate the company pension fund industry, Mr Fowler said that the new pension system would "sit alongside and threaten employers' schemes". But many experts believe it would not sit comfortably.

A recent Economist Intelligence Unit report, for example, predicted that the large company schemes would be in for a thin time. Since scheme members would be able to opt out, the scheme would have to increase their contribution rates drastically to ensure adequate funding. Their costs would also be forced up by a greater administrative burden. This in turn would lead to more members leaving the scheme.

The funds themselves object, however, that the new pensions would not have provided the same high level of benefits. Employers typically contribute around 12 per cent of wages to each employee's pension, but many would be tempted to reduce the amount, knowing that employees would accept this in return for greater portability.

Rather as it has with the proposal to phase out the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Serps), much of the pensions industry has concluded that modification is better than outright change on personal pensions. There are already mechanisms in existence, such as Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs),

which could be adjusted to produce a more portable pensions system. Likewise, the section 226 policies available to the self-employed or people in non-pensionable employment provide an already existing basis for a more flexible system.

Added to that are the moves the Government is making to improve conditions for early leavers. The present Social Security Bill contains measures to entitle leavers to a transfer value out of their old employer's pension scheme.

There is also the new requirement that all frozen pension benefits should be increased in value every year by 5 per cent or the rate of inflation, whichever is the lower. These moves alone take some of the sting out of the early leaver problem.

Whatever formula for portable pensions the Government eventually adopts, it is highly likely that the institutions allowed to offer pension schemes will be broadened. Principally, unit trusts and

Building societies
show little action

building societies will be included in the range of investments allowed in a personal pension scheme. With thousands of small policies being taken out by people forced to start their own pension scheme it is beginning to look increasingly as though the building societies will be the only institutions able to cope.

They are used to handling small amounts of money from large numbers of people and have the organization and cost structure to operate such pensions profitably.

But while there are signs that some unit trust companies are beginning to gear up to take advantage of the new pension environment, the building societies appear to be doing very little.

Behind the lack of action is still the uncertainty about the final scope and details of the Government's pension plans. This makes the new systems, let alone the planning of specific products, virtually impossible. The era of personal portable pensions is still very much on the drawing board and the problem of the early leaver has still to find a satisfactory solution.

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Sophisticated tactics in battle of the giants

The past few months have seen a spate of big and bitterly fought takeover battles. Some of the more memorable include BTR bidding for Dunlop, Dixons for Currys, Burton for Debenhams, Guinness for Arthur Bell and currently United Newspapers for Fleet Holdings.

In all of these contests the pension fund manager is deluged with long and detailed offer and defence documents, as indeed is every shareholder however small his holding. The fund manager, however, because he is usually sitting on a sizeable chunk of the equity of the bid target and his decision could therefore be crucial to the outcome of the bid, is courted assiduously by the merchant banks acting for both sides.

Fund managers say the tactics are becoming more and more sophisticated. The video crews now roll in to flesh out the written documents with video presentations to win the hearts and minds of pension fund managers.

Whether they are impressed

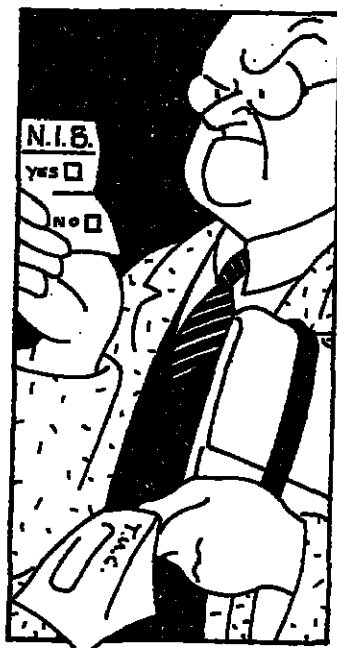
by the extra information and polish is a moot point. Mr George Dennis of Postal Investment Management says management principles in takeovers can be obscured by dubious statistics. It is not a good thing when takeover battles boil down to an argument over statistics, he says. The synergy, or lack of it, in the two businesses is what should be looked at. And when all is said and done price remains the real determinant, he says. However good the company is that is trying to remain independent, if the price being offered looks higher than the discounted cash flow rate of return the company could provide on its own, the bid must be accepted.

Fund managers like to think of themselves as acting for all shareholders. Because they are professionals they can, more easily see through some of the flowery expressions and elaborate claims made in takeover battles, also because of the size of their portfolios they are able to look at the bigger picture and decide whether a takeover is

good in a sectoral sense as well as an individual one.

Fund managers tend to maintain their independence regardless of the varying pressures brought to bear on them. One recent example of such independence and proof that Chinese walls do work was when Warburg investment Management, which manages £9 billion pension funds for outside companies, sold its 4½ per cent stake in Debenhams to House of Fraser. House of Fraser's spoiling tactics came close to depriving Burton of victory and Burton was being advised by none other than Warburg's merchant bank.

Fund managers can undoubtedly decide the outcome of a bid, occasionally in an unfortunate manner. A few weeks ago a fund manager at Save & Prosper, the unit trust group, assented its 3.725 per cent stake in R. Cartwright to bidder Newman Tunks. Then a second fund manager (the first was on holiday) mistakenly sold the same 3.725 stake in the market, where they were bought by



'The plan has been decided by the City and Tory politicians'

Tunks. The battle had to go to court to be settled and the Judge ruled in Tunks' favour even though 51,425 per cent of shareholders had not accepted the bid. Because Tunks was allowed to count the crucial parcel of shares twice it claimed 52.3 per cent acceptance.

Pension fund managers are usually outsiders in takeover bids, but could possibly find themselves as bid targets, if the Inland Revenue were to relax its stringent rules about taking money out of pension funds. In America takeover bids inspired by a company's assets - principally an overfunded pension fund - are commonplace. It is permissible in the US to asset-strip a pension fund.

In Britain the taking of money out of pension funds is officially frowned on and it is hard to know when it is permissible. The Revenue does not publish guidelines, but has been known to sanction withdrawals. Overfunded pension funds, or those showing an actuarial surplus, are fairly common in post-recession Britain, particularly among large industrial companies which have shed a third or more of their workforce.

In general, if the actuaries believe there is a surplus, the Revenue asks that the company stop paying into the fund and improve the benefits for the fund's beneficiaries. If after a five-year "holiday" from pension contributions there is still a surplus, the Revenue may well sanction withdrawals. Because pension funds have trust status, such withdrawals are not easy.

Even those with a good case can fail. Gomme Holdings, manufacturer of G-Plan furniture, earlier this year failed to convince the Revenue of its case. In February Gomme told shareholders that the company wanted to claw back £2.9 million from the estimated £4.1 million surplus in the pension fund. Gomme proposed to use £1.2 million of the surplus to improve benefits and to give employees a five-year holiday from contributions.

The Revenue said no. Lawyers well versed in tax matters reckon Gomme's mistake was to publicize the intended claw-back. Although the Revenue does not like overfunded pension funds, because pension funds are free of tax, it does not want to encourage companies to start asset-stripping their funds.

The rapid growth of pension funds has attracted critical attention and envy from a variety of quarters, most notably the Labour Party. Its latest policy document suggests that funds invested overseas should be repatriated or risk the loss of valuable tax concessions. The money would then be channelled into British projects through a National Investment Bank (NIB).

The plan, put forward by the shadow chancellor, Roy Hattersley, has been derided by Conservative politicians, City personalities and industrialists such as Sir Gordon White, the chairman of the American subsidiary of Hanson Trust.

Critics claim the plan would not necessarily create more jobs, nor would it help pensioners. They say there is already plenty of money available for worthwhile businesses, a point underlined recently by the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, in pointing to the growth of venture capital funds.

Other objectors say that repatriation would lower the average rate of return and increase the level of the pound, which in turn would suck in more imports. Foreigners would then withdraw, taking their money with them.

It is not the first time that these contrary views have been aired. There is a widely shared sense of frustration at seeing huge sums of money go overseas each year. The proportion of new pension money leaving these shores has risen since exchange controls were abolished to a peak of 25 per cent in 1982. Reflecting relative movements in international stock markets, the proportion fell to just 7 per cent last year.

While this flow of funds has angered members of the Labour Party, the Trades Union Con-

gress (TUC) has been noticeably mute of late. Traditionally a supporter of the NIB concept, the TUC has been slow to come to Mr Hattersley's defence this time.

The union movement now seems unsure of its position. Two years ago a TUC report boldly stated "pension fund investment policies have reinforced the long term decline of UK industry" and the establishment of a NIB would "channel pension fund money

though he is a firm supporter of enterprise boards. He admits there are problems with the present system, especially for small businessmen who are, he says, often better advised to ask banks for a home improvement loan than for support for a new venture. He is also critical of the herd instinct among professional investors in the City. But he believes pension funds should not be used to solve unemployment. This position has become

moritor and question investment decisions made by the managers.

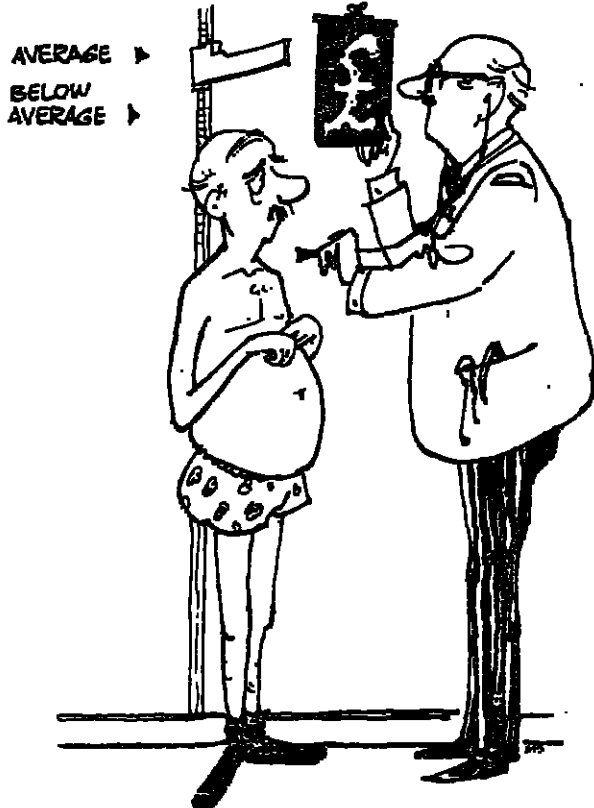
Jim Moher of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) explains the terms of trustees' motivation in terms of pensions as deferred pay. Trustees must by law look to the interests of pensioners, both actual and potential.

In the past unions have called for the withdrawal of money from overseas for political reasons. South Africa is an example. Now such demands tend to be argued on financial grounds. Bob Montgomery, one of ICT's worker trustees, says his colleagues once pushed for more investment in inner cities but this was firmly quashed.

While the Labour Party sees the investment of pension fund money overseas as a wasted opportunity for Britain, trustees and some union officials increasingly see it as an essential means of balancing a portfolio.

Many union members undoubtedly hold traditionally socialist positions but many are now meeting the City professionals on common ground. They would argue with Tom Heyes, a former chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds, that pension fund managers and trustees are there to look after pensioners while other bodies such as Parliament and the United Nations look to wider social issues.

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(SPECIAL REPORT)

The association looking at both sides

Until a few years ago the growth in pension funds had not been reflected in increasing activity by their representative body, the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) but it is catching up quickly.

The most visible of several important changes is probably the move from Croydon, south of London, to offices in the centre of town. The NAPF has also recruited more staff and produces a growing stream of literature and publicity material.

Traditionally the emphasis has been on the benefits side of the pensions equation - such as increased pensions payments, the early leaver problem and administration. Many of these remain unresolved but the questions emerging have steered the number of people covered by occupational schemes has settled down at about 11 million or about half the working population.

Meanwhile the value of the funds' assets has risen at a tremendous rate and the whole investment area has taken on new significance, especially in the light of changes taking place in the City. One of the subjects currently preoccupying the pensions industry, and therefore the NAPF, is the regulation of London's financial markets after the Big Bang.

This switch in emphasis was typified by the appointment of Tom Heyes as NAPF chairman more than two years ago. He is ICT's pension fund manager and was the first chairman to be drawn from the investment side of the industry. Ironically, during his time the NAPF had to deal with a large number of government-inspired changes to benefits, including legislation that requires disclosure to members.

His successor, Colin Lever, effectively bridges the gap between benefits and invest-

ment. Next, he says, is the Labour Party's plan for a National Investment Bank and the repatriation of overseas assets. The association is predictably against the scheme, but it is open-minded enough to invite its main proponent, the shadow chancellor, Roy Hattersley, to speak at its annual conference next May. In his turn Mr Hattersley has demonstrated good faith by accepting the invitation.

The NAPF is also closely watching the implementation of recent legislation on disclosure. In particular it seems to see

little need for the proposed in company pension schemes industry is concerned by the cost of storing and making available huge amounts of information, including each scheme's trust deed.

Then there is the vexed question of pension fund surpluses. A number of schemes have landed up with more assets than they need to meet the future cost of pensions. This situation owes much to the strong performance of world stock markets in the past few years and to the sudden cuts in labour forces seen in parts of British industry.

The Inland Revenue is unhappy about surpluses because they are built up from tax free income.

Many in the industry, however, are concerned by the Revenue's inconsistent attitude to the different ways of reducing surpluses. Again the NAPF is taking a low-key approach, concentrating on observing and informing the public.

As well as meeting regularly with politicians and members of the Trades Union Congress, the NAPF is involved in a range of fairly mundane activities. It runs courses and two major conferences a year. It also awards prizes for the best report and account by a pension fund.



Henry James: Director general of the NAPF

Pressure on the investment teams

The pensions industry may be providing for the future - but the investment managers responsible for spending millions are increasingly being judged on their results now.

Competition among managers to demonstrate that they are ahead of the game is growing fiercer by the day, with increasing use of performance measurement to check their ability, the progress of their funds, and their investment strategies.

This covers the managers of the big state and company funds, as well as the achievements, or lack of them, of funds managed by insurance companies, merchant banks, stockbrokers, and the mushrooming band of independents.

At the same time there are signs that pension fund trustees are playing an increasing role in ensuring that they are getting the best value from their investment professionals.

The pensions industry has enjoyed a relatively long period of sustained growth which many experts believe will become increasingly difficult to match in the future. This will place the performance of managers under more pressure.

Stockbrokers Phillips and Drew have pointed out that the extremely high level of returns - nearly 14 per cent above inflation - which Britain's pension funds have achieved over the last five years cannot be sustained. They predict that funds will achieve real returns of about three to five per cent over the foreseeable future. Some managers disagree and say that if they remain aggressive

and alert to opportunities they should be able to continue to score high returns.

The Courtaulds' pension fund has been one of private industry's pacesetters and was last year ranked as the best performing fund with investments of £320 million.

The key to its success, and many others like it, is getting the right allocation between different markets.

Matthew Oakeshott, the investment manager, has based his strategy on minimal exposure to gilts, with a heavy concentration on equities, particularly in the UK.

Like most funds, a considerable overseas portfolio has been built up since the scrapping of exchange control regulations in 1979. Overseas investment stood at 30 per cent at its peak but is now around 15 per cent.

But there are signs that the whole industry is beginning to step up the pace of overseas investment again. The performance of pension funds has been monitored most closely by WM Computer Services, formerly the computer division of stockbrokers Wood Mackenzie.

So far this year research



It is a prudent exercise for managers to look at assets

Overall UK equities produced the highest return of 29.9 per cent with overseas stocks showing a 21 per cent return.

One case put forward in the industry is that it is unfair to judge funds on a short-term basis. Peter Warrington, of WM, disagrees. "Annual figures are a very good thing. It is a perfectly prudent exercise for managers to be made to look at their assets on an annual basis and judge how they are doing compared with their counterparts in the industry."

"I think the trend is going to be towards more and more information on a regular basis. Already we are analysing facts in six key areas - fixed interest, index-linked, property, cash, UK, and overseas equities. But we are now considering breaking these down further, for instance comparing UK and overseas property, and a sector analysis of UK equities."

"We are not generating the need for the information. It is the managers themselves who are asking more and more questions we cannot answer, so we have to do more analysis. These are the necessary management controls needed for the owners of a business to manage their assets effectively," said Mr Warrington.

So far this year research

carried out on a sample basis by WM Computer demonstrates that the tide is turning after the overseas disinvestment - the first for ten years - by pension funds in 1984.

The 14 per cent withdrawal in the first half of last year has turned into a 31 per cent reversal this year.

Despite the competition between fund managers there is so far little evidence to suggest that any greater expertise is presently found outside directly-managed funds.

However, WM has spotted signs of a trend towards multiple portfolios and the appointment of specialized managers, while the proportion of funds managed internally has fallen by six per cent to 37 per cent since 1983, while that managed partly internally and partly externally has risen by four per cent to 32 per cent.

According to actuarial consultants Cubie Wood, who looked at the performance of 750 funds last year, funds managed by specialist houses showed an average 22.3 per cent rise, followed by banks with returns of 21.6 per cent, while directly-managed funds produced a return of 20.7 per cent.

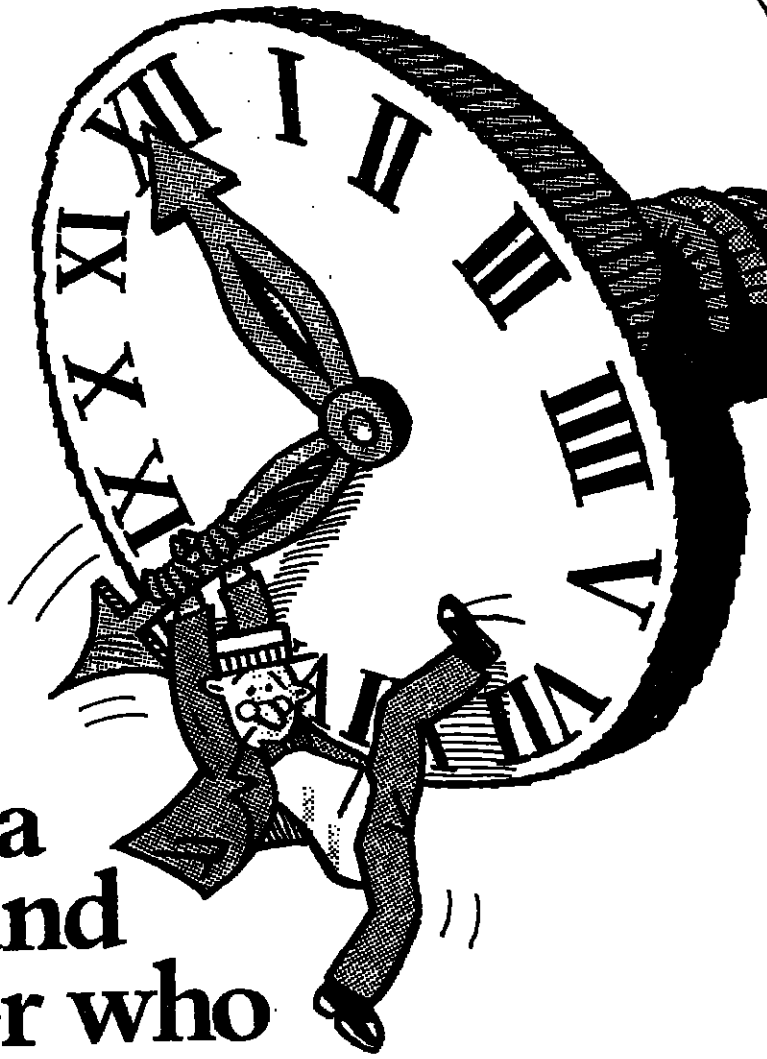
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PENSION FUND MANAGEMENT/6

(SPECIAL REPORT)

A sting in the tail from Serps?

Colin Curwood

Until recently, the pension funds have had a pretty easy time in terms of specific statutory requirements governing tax and accounting. Putting it crudely they didn't have to pay the former nor did they have to prepare the latter. In practice, of course, the position is slightly different.

In respect of UK tax, the pension funds have clung to their exempt status although they will make payments on overseas earnings. Even on that front there has been some progress. Kent County Council recently won tax exemption for its pension fund dividend payments from US equities. Its victory after a four-year battle with the US Internal Revenue Service will open the way for other local authorities to claim similar exemptions. However, the arguments centred on whether Kent County Council was a branch of government which would entitle it to the exemption. Other private funds are therefore unlikely to obtain any benefit and will still have to pay a 15 per cent withholding tax.

At home the funds were naturally delighted that the Chancellor chose to leave the basic tax regime intact when he unveiled his Budget in March. However, it might have proved to be a sting in the Government's tail if it had proceeded with its previously announced intention to abolish the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme.

The Serps question is fraught with difficulties and uncertainties. Widespread opposition to the current plans have already made the Government reconsider some aspects but if Serps were eventually to be abolished then inevitably there



The City's nerve centre: There is widespread opposition to pension plans

would be some modification of the tax regime.

Pension fund managers have also been distracted, but perhaps only slightly, by the recent revival of the old chestnut of how to treat pension fund surpluses. At times of good investment performances, low inflation and declining workforces, such surpluses are almost inevitable and the problem of how to treat them gives rise to misunderstandings.

The problem stems from the Inland Revenue which is unhappy at these large surpluses being rolled forward untaxed. The pressure to reduce the surplus comes, therefore, from the taxman. The options available to the fund are basically to either offer a contributions holiday to the employer and or employees, or to improve the benefits.

Even after doing this there is still no guarantee that Revenue will allow the employer to claw back the surplus and put the funds to use by the company. The best approach would appear to be one of the constant communication with the tax-

man. As Gomme Holdings found to its cost when it tried unsuccessfully to claw back its surplus, found to its cost the Inland Revenue can be quite stubborn.

Fortunately, the accountancy profession appears to be a little more sympathetic to the issue. This is largely because of the

For many of the larger schemes the Act will only codify the current practice. However, for the smaller funds it will involve the managers and trustees in additional work.

For the first time under law it will be necessary for the funds to produce a document equating to the company's annual

production will outweigh the benefits.

In terms of the specific accounting information which will be disclosed, the DHSS proposals are much in line with those suggested by the Accounting Standards Committee.

The final details of how the legislative framework will be put into practice are still to be worked out by the DHSS. One of the last remaining questions is whether there should be a registry of pension funds where accounts would have to be filed. This would expose pension fund accounts to a wider audience than ever before.

This wider public accountability should not worry the majority of pension funds. And to offer the members, as a statutory right, access to greater information about the welfare of their assets cannot be a bad thing. For some of the funds, which have perhaps not always been as attentive to the financial information made available to the members, the new legislation will provide the required incentive to bring about an improvement. IG

Pressure to reduce the surplus comes from the tax man

absence of any formal standards dealing with the topic, although there are various statements of intent and exposure drafts dealing with a variety of pension related subjects which have yet to make it on to the official accountants' "statute book".

Despite the profession's intense interest in the accounting aspects of pensions it has been left to the Department of Health and Social Security to take the lead on any formal regulations. The 1985 Social Security Act has provided the framework which will require occupational pension schemes to produce detailed annual reports.

accounts. It will contain a trustees' report giving a review of the financial development of the scheme, details of who has managed the investments and how well they have performed. The report will be generally designed to keep the members much more clearly informed about the fund.

Whether it achieves its desired objective remains to be seen. There have been fears expressed in some quarters that the new accounts will give too much away in terms of confidential information. And the National Association of Pension Funds says that, for the very small funds, the costs of

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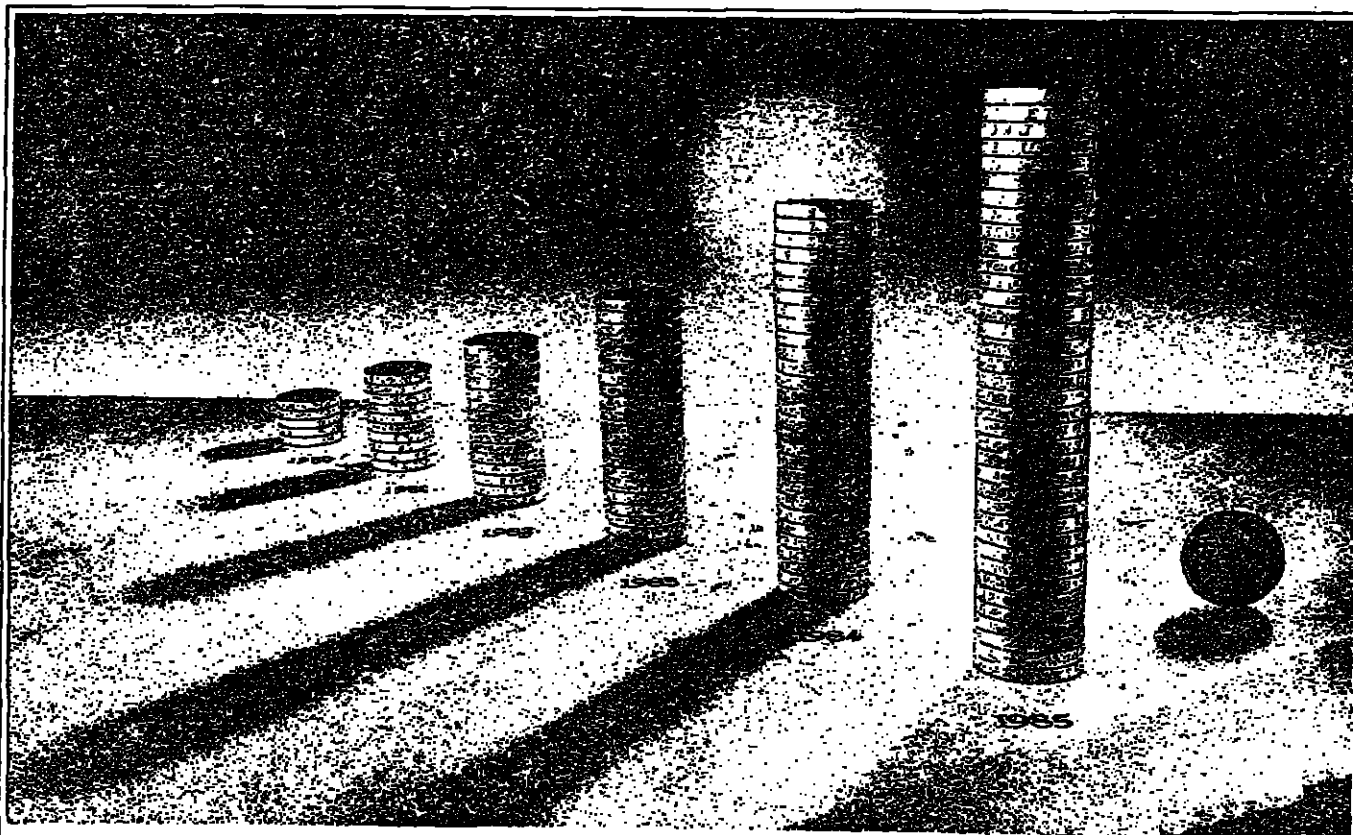
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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Company	Price	Ch'ge	prev %	Grav Div	Yld %	P/E
City of London	91			5.88	8.1	
Ind & Gen	148			8.0	3.4	
Naval Pac	212			10.7	8.0	
North America	81			2.8	3.2	
Pacific Ocean	119	+		1.48	1.0	
Property	148			2.5	3.0	
Tech	83			2.5	3.0	

..	250	241	Thyrognoston	234
..	288	248	Thyry Scoured Cap	288
..	167	137	Trans Oesophic	141

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the listing particulars may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday, except Saturdays, up to and including 23rd October, 1985 from:

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Union Mills
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Huddersfield HD3 4NA

Hambros Bank Limited
41 Bishopsgate
London EC2P 2AA

L. Messel & Co.
P.O. Box 521
1 Finsbury Avenue
London EC2M 2QE

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9th October, 1985

THE TIMES
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No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P.E.
1	Baker Perkins	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
2	BOC	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
3	Beaton Clark	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
4	Beecham	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
5	Bridgwater	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
6	Brigade	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
7	Ashley	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
8	Black Arrow	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
9	Brammer	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
10	Cape Arden	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
11	Fluoro	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
12	IMI	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
13	East	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
14	Eden	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
15	English China Clay	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
16	Kalamazoo	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
17	European Ferries	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
18	Eastern Prod	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
19	Glynwed	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
20	Hutton	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
21	Bluebird Conf	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
22	Rock Foods	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
23	Unigate	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
24	Glen Glover	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
25	Fish Lovers	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
26	Hallards	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
27	Asac Fisheries	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
28	Carrs Milling	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
29	Alpine Drinks	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
30	Home Farm	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
31	Electricals	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
32	Boydell	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
33	City West	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
34	Concor	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
35	Fairchild Elec	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
36	Electronics	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
37	Crystal	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
38	Brown Boveri	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
39	Eurolith	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
40	Macro Focus	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
41	IBL	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

BRITISH FUNDS

1985 High Low Stock Price Chg Div Yld P.E.

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

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1	Baker Perkins	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
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30	Home Farm	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
31	Electricals	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
32	Boydell	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
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40	Macro Focus	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
41	IBL	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

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31	Electricals	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
32	Boydell	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
33	City West	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
34	Concor	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
35	Fairchild Elec	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
36	Electronics	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
37	Crystal	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
38	Brown Boveri	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
39	Eurolith	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
40	Macro Focus	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
41	IBL	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50

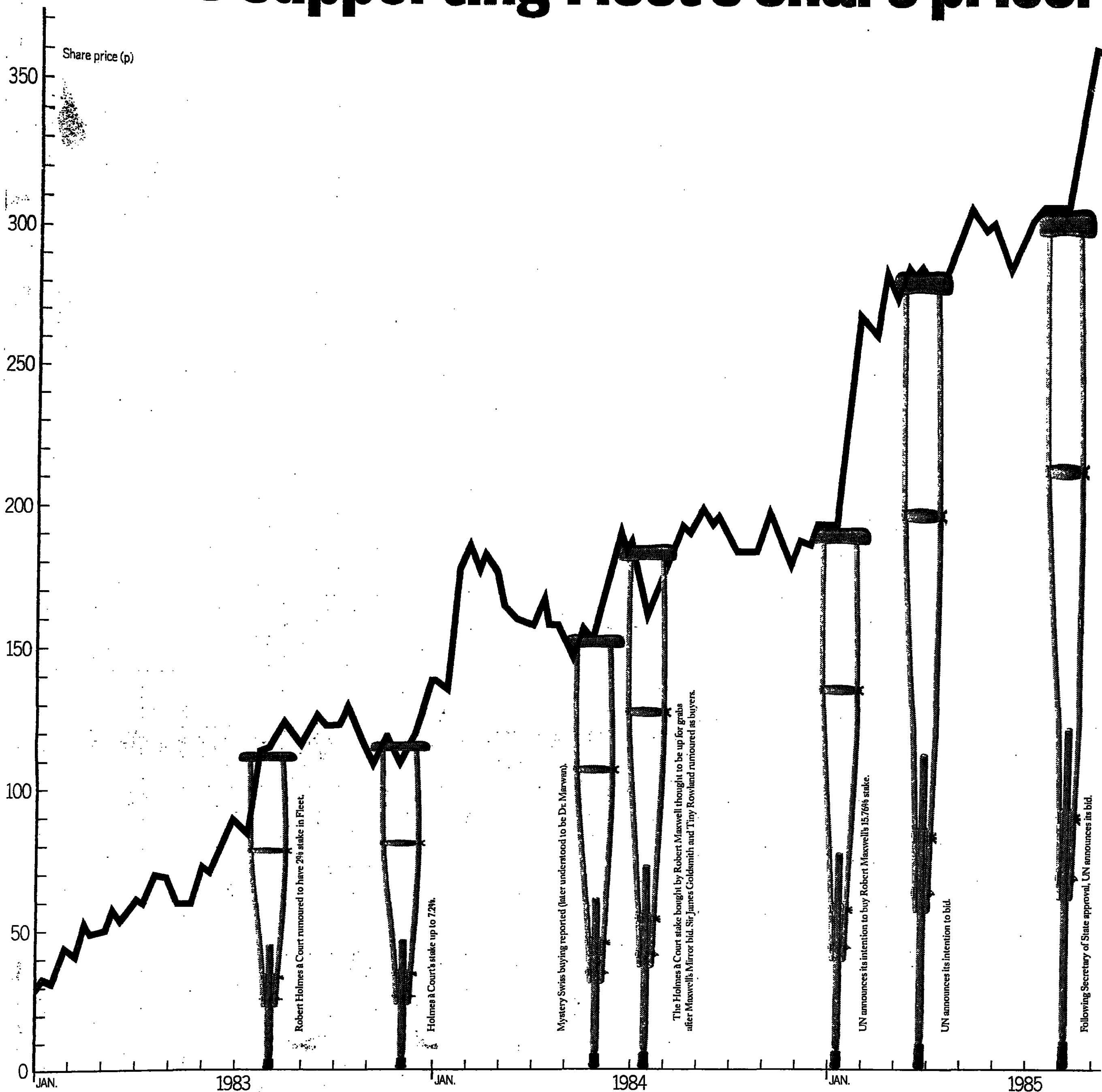
OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P.E.
1	Baker Perkins	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
2	BOC	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
3	Beaton Clark	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
4	Beecham	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
5	Bridgwater	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
6	Brigade	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
7	Ashley	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
8	Black Arrow	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
9	Brammer	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
10	Cape Arden	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
11	Fluoro	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
12	IMI	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
13	East	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
14	Eden	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
15	English China Clay	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
16	Kalamazoo	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
17	European Ferries	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
18	Eastern Prod	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
19	Glynwed	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
20	Hutton	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
21	Bluebird Conf	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
22	Rock Foods	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
23	Unigate	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
24	Glen Glover	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
25	Fish Lovers	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
26	Hallards	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
27	Asac Fisheries	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
28	Carrs Milling	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
29	Alpine Drinks	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
30	Home Farm	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
31	Electricals	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
32	Boydell	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
33	City West	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
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40	Macro Focus	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
41	IBL	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50

UNDATED

No.	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P.E.
1	Baker Perkins	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
2	BOC	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
3	Beaton Clark	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
4	Beecham	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.

What's supporting Fleet's share price?



On the surface, Fleet's share price performance since its demerger from Trafalgar looks impressive.

But Fleet shareholders must ask themselves a simple question: is the share price really justified by the company's trading performance?

Look at the facts behind the figures.

Windfall profits from the Reuters flotation gave Fleet shares a shot in the arm.

Bid rumours have played a significant part. And there have certainly been plenty of rumours.

As recently as 14th January 1985, the day before United Newspapers agreed to purchase 15.76% of Fleet's shares, the price stood at a mere 200p.

A price already inflated by strong hints of a bid.

Without rumours and without our generous offer, where would Fleet's share price be today?

United Newspapers plc

Newspapers, magazines, books, newsagents and satellite news. **YORKSHIRE POST** **Evening News** **Punch**

Trade 01-278 9161/5

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

PA/Secretary

to Managing Director
Thames Valley
up to £13,000 + benefits

A very high-calibre PA/Secretary is sought for the Managing Director of a well known name in fast-moving consumer goods. This dynamic organisation, headquartered in the Thames Valley, markets an impressive range of brand-leading grocery products with a turnover in excess of £350 million.

In addition to providing the full range of PA/secretarial services, you will act as secretary for company board meetings, and must therefore possess the maturity and business awareness to generate minutes of the highest quality.

Your first-class secretarial skills, polished by experience in a post of comparable seniority, should be backed by organisational flair, diplomacy, commitment and calmness under pressure.

Starting salary in the range £10,800-£13,000 will be offered together with a comprehensive non-contributory benefits package including relocation assistance if appropriate.

If you are at the top of your profession and are attracted by this opportunity to join a truly progressive international consumer company, write enclosing your full CV to the address below, quoting ref: P3003/T on the envelope. Your application will be forwarded to our client unopened, unless marked for the attention of our Security Manager with a note of companies to which it should not be sent.

PA Advertising

Hyde Park House, 60a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE
Tel: 01-235 6860 Telex: 27874

CAREERS IN INVESTMENT BANKING

CITY

Merrill Lynch is one of the world's leading and most dynamic financial institutions. As part of its growth there are now a number of openings for experienced and professionally motivated secretaries within Investment Banking and Corporate Finance at its City offices.

THE CHALLENGE FOR SECRETARIES
To provide professional secretarial services to a team of Investment Bankers working to strict deadlines within a high-pressure and exciting international environment.

THE REQUIREMENTS
All-round secretarial experience with good or refined skills, shorthand/typing speeds of around 90/60 wpm, the personality and resourcefulness to exercise initiative, Word processor or Personal Computer experience will be preferred; knowledge of a foreign language would be an added advantage.

THE REWARDS
Salaries are highly competitive, depending on age, experience - and real ability will not go unrewarded. Excellent benefits package includes free life insurance, interest-free season ticket loan, subsidised mortgage scheme, £1 LV's per day, contributory pension scheme, sports and social club facilities.

THE ACTION
Please write with brief career details, including your current salary level and daytime telephone number (if possible), to: Barbara Wolsey, Senior Recruitment Officer, Merrill Lynch Europe Ltd., 27 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1AQ.



Merrill Lynch

If you work for us, we'll work for you.

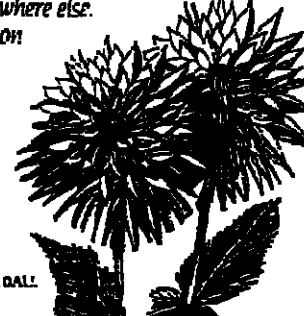
- Proven secretarial skills
- Commercial experience
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If this describes you, and you are looking for a temporary position leading to a permanent career, then join one of the most prestigious and successful consultancies in London. With excellent rates, and a personal service, we can ensure that once you've looked at what MacBlain Nash have to offer, you won't look anywhere else.

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Temporary Secretaries

Recruitment Consultancy
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(Recruitment Consultants)



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Financial Markets £9,500+

This is a very real career opportunity offering early promotion to the management of a small expanding Research team in the Securities Department of a City conglomerate.

This exciting, demanding job calls for a graduate, 21-27, with English shorthand/typing speeds of 90/60, numerate (the work will involve statistical, able to produce accurate translations and eager to accept responsibility).

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Do you want to run your own show? As an Alfred Marks Branch Office Manager you can.

Being an Alfred Marks manager can offer you considerable career opportunities.

As you will be in charge of a branch office that is assessed as a separate profit centre, the effort that you make will be both acknowledged and rewarded.

You'll be responsible for dealing with both clients and job seekers as well as your staff. This means you'll need to have the kind of successful business background that will enable you to develop a rapport with the many top company clients we deal with. You'll need the kind of quick, alert mind that can make astute decisions in the field of the management of human resources. And you'll be leading a skilled team with enthusiasm and commitment.

Of course, the job is a demanding one that requires a proven ability to manage people. We can, at least, help you by giving you a thorough training in our business. You may run the show, but we'll provide a comprehensive backup. You may have heard already of our extraordinary remuneration structure, based upon a first-class salary and exciting incentive scheme.

If you're aged between 25-40 and feel that you have the right qualities of leadership, ambition and commercial experience, we'd like to hear from you.

Send your CV to:
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84/86 Regent Street, London W1A 1AL.

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All an employment service should be.

Where do stockbrokers go to invest in secretaries?

BROOK STREET

All an employment service should be.

Administrative Secretary £10,000

A rare opportunity is being offered by a leading professional firm for a young, outgoing person whose forte is dealing with people. Your main responsibility will be keeping tabs on 70/80 itinerant business, solving any personal or administrative problems that arise, and acting as a central source of information. In addition, you will be giving secretarial support to three senior managers. This is a demanding position requiring a calm, highly efficient personality who thrives under the pressure of keeping several balls in the air at once. Age: 24-30. Skills: 60 typing.

Consumer Advertising £9,000

The charming board director of this large West End agency is a great boss to work for. Good secretarial skills are important but there is a high percentage of client contact so an outgoing personality and the ability to organise are just as important. Accounts include major food companies and ad agency experience is preferred. Age: 24-30. Skills: 90/60.

Receptionist £8,000 +

The receptionist for this growing property company will need excellent presentation to match their luxurious surroundings. You will be at the centre of everything: greeting clients, organising lunches and the messenger service and operating the Monarch switchboard. Age: 25-40. Skills: 50wpm typing.

HAZELL STATION ASSOCIATES

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
8 Golden Square, London W1 01-439 6021

Secretary

£8,000 circa

We are seeking a bright, well organised secretary with excellent shorthand (100/50) who will be responsible for the smooth running of a busy Taxation Department (including supervising junior staff) in a major International Company with offices close to Waterloo station.

Knowledge of Wang Word Processor would be an advantage (but we are quite prepared to train you) also, experience in a financial background.

Excellent benefits as usually associated with a large Company.

Please contact Miss Paula Lee, Personnel Assistant on: 01-928 4977.

PA/SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR

Age 25-35 London, WC2

An experienced and well qualified PA/Secretary is required by the Deputy Director and Secretary of a leading employers' association. The job is varied and demanding and you must be used to working on a tight deadline. First-class organisational skills are essential, together with word processing experience (preferably IBM Displaywriter).

A first-class secretarial service is essential. Looking for a well known name, a first-class secretarial service, still restaurant and a friendly atmosphere, please write for further details, enclosing your CV to:

Calla Pope, Deputy Director & Secretary, Employers' Association, 22 Essex Street, Strand, London, WC2R 3AR.

PA 23-

Age 25-35 London, WC2

An experienced and well qualified PA/Secretary is required by the Deputy Director and Secretary of a leading employers' association. The job is varied and demanding and you must be used to working on a tight deadline. First-class organisational skills are essential, together with word processing experience (preferably IBM Displaywriter).

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Calla Pope, Deputy Director & Secretary, Employers' Association, 22 Essex Street, Strand, London, WC2R 3AR.

EXEC. SECRETARY

£9,500 plus

Superb opportunity for an experienced SH Sec to work for this international service company. This is a responsible and involved position dealing with all administrative and organisational, as well as providing a first class secretarial service. Good prospects, health club membership, bonuses + other perks (Pac Cont).

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PUBLIC RELATIONS

£3,000

Prestigious P.R. company needs a first class P.A. to help out in all aspects of the business. Use your organising to the full, organise all appointments, make sure clients are met and see your clients at all times and use your excellent shorthand skills to get fully involved in a busy & lively environment. (Pac Cont).

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P.A. to M.D.

22 plus £3,000

Excellent shorthand sec (100/60) required for London based house. Varied admin duties including telephone client contact, telephone work, making travel arrangements etc. If you are happy working in part of a small team and enjoy involvement in all aspects of your work do not miss this brilliant opportunity. (Pac Cont).

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Secretary/Receptionist

WI design consultancy needs an exceptional secretary with excellent typing skills and at least two years office experience, preferably in a design/advertising oriented business. Shorthand an advantage.

A pleasant and efficient telephone manner coupled with an intelligent and personable image are essential. This position involves a wide range of secretarial duties and good administrative and organisational skills are necessary to help keep things running smoothly, particularly when we're working under pressure.

If you enjoy variety and are prepared to get involved, you'll find our expanding design consultancy a lively and pleasant environment in which to work.

We offer an excellent salary to the right person plus four weeks holiday and BUPA membership.

Contact Fiona Currie on 01-387 8889. (No Agencies)

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
7-8 MIDFORD PLACE LONDON W1P 9HJ
TEL: 01-387 8889 TELEX: 895374 MERTON G

Hayes Middlesex SENIOR SECRETARY/PA £29,000

BRITISH AIRPORTS INTERNATIONAL
Due to relocation of office to Hayes, require a Secretary/PA to work for the Commercial Director. This is a senior appointment and applicants should have W.P. experience (preferably on Diamond 5) and (Cheops) shorthand/typing. Skills of 120/70 wpm plus audio typing. This position requires good organising skills and an ability to work under pressure. Fluency in French would be an advantage. We offer a starting salary of £29,000, an excellent pension scheme, luncheon vouchers and good office working conditions.

Please send cv to Miss C. Kenzler, British Airports International, Mercury House, North Hyde Rd, Hayes Middlesex UB8 4DG.

No Agencies

ADVERTISING INTELLIGENCE

£8,000 NEG

We are a large International Advertising Agency in St James's Square and are seeking a young, intelligent, enthusiastic person with good secretarial skills and with experience in the advertising industry to assist in the day-to-day running of the agency. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the agency's secretarial services. The agency is a leading international advertising agency with a turnover of over £10 million.

Please send cv to: Mrs Helen Bland, 839 3422

13, Hill Street, Berkeley Square, London W1X 8DL

Get Off at Liverpool Street

Get up to £70,000 + an interest in property

The Property Director of one of Britain's largest property firms needs a Sec-PA who likes to be very busy as well as well rewarded. He's in the way of a good investment, but depending - or based, not just of office work in a 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. office.

You could be as busy as you like, good bonuses and get in at 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (100-120/60) is only the half of it. He's in the way of a good investment, but depending - or based, not just of office work in a 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. office.

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Edited by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

Today's television and radio programmes

BBC 1

6.00 **Cee-fax AM**.
6.50 Breakfast Time with Frank
Bough and Debbie
Greenwood. Weather at 6.55,
7.25, 7.55, 8.25, and 8.55
regional news, weather and
travel at 6.57, 7.27, 7.57 and
8.27; national and international
news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30
and 9.00; sport at 7.20 and
8.20; plus Top Twenty at
7.22, 8.22, 9.22 and 10.22.
10.00 **Conservative Party**
Conference 85. The second
day's debates include those
on Rates, Drugs and Defence.
10.30 approximately Play School.
10.50 approximately Conservative
Party Conference 85. Further
coverage.
12.30 **News After Noon**. With
Richard Whitmore and
Francesca Smith, followed
by news headlines and
subtitles 12.55 Regional news.
The weather details come
from Bill Giles.
1.00 **Pebble Mill at One**. Explorer
Tim Severin, talks about his
1,500 mile, Beverly Hills
voyage from
Greece to Georgia in a replica
of the boat that took Jason
and the Argonauts on their
search for the Golden Fleece.
A trip that is to be serialised on
BBC 2 beginning October 17.
Plus chef Michael Smith with
plus in his English cookery
series. 1.45 Mop and Smiff (r)
2.00 Cee-fax.

2.30 **Conservative Party**
Conference 85. Further
coverage from the Winter
Gardens, Blackpool. 3.52
Regional news.
3.55 **Paddington and a Family**
Group, narrated by Michael
Hordern (r). 4.00 Finger-mouse,
with Ian Lauchlin and Jane
Honey. 4.10 The Voyages of Dr
Doctord. Cartoon series about
the man who can talk to
animals. 4.35 Hartbeat. Making
pictures with Tony Hart.
Margot Wilson and Lisa Brown.
5.00 **Newsround** with Paul
McDonald. 5.10 Treasure
Houses. Mark Curry visits the
Spy Museum of the
Intelligence Corps. 5.35 The
Flinstones. Cartoon series.
6.00 **News**, with Nicholas Witchell
and Andrew Harvey. Weather.
6.35 **London Plus**.
7.00 **Wogan**. Sit-in Salina has
among her guests Gerald
Henderson, Marie Helvin, the
alternative comedy group, the
Merry MacFunnos, and singer
Billy Bragg.
7.40 **Wildlife on One: Vampire**. The
last programme of the present
series. South America and the
Caribbean are the locations for
today's film which
investigates the facts and
fantasy about the vampire bat.
Slow motion film presents a
remarkable spectacle (r).
8.05 **Tenko**. Episode five and
thoughts of the future occupy
all the women's minds (r).
8.30 **News**, with Julia Somerville
and John Humphrys. Weather.
8.55 **Soldiers**. Frederick Forsyth
continues the series on the
history of fighting men with an
examination of the role of the
infantry through the years.
10.15 **Sportlight** introduced by
Steve Rider. Included this
evening are the Norwich Union
Leaving Jumper of the Year
competition from the Horse of
the Year show at Wembley.
A feature and a report on the
New Zealand Rugby League
team's warm-up match tonight
against Great Britain 21st
prior to the First Test next
week.
11.10 **Dickie Henderson in the**
Spotlight. In tribute to the
show business star who died
last month, a repeat of one of
his Spotlight programmes that
showcased the versatility of
the entertainer.
11.55 **Weather**.

TV-am

6.15 **Good Morning Britain**
presented by Nick Owen and
Gordon Wray. News at 6.17,
6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30
and 9.00; exercise at 8.20 and
9.17; sport at 8.35 and 9.34;
advice on the latest house
prices at 8.48; cartoon at 7.24;
pop music at 7.55; video film
review at 8.34; Mrs Thatcher
and her personal style at 9.04;
part two of understanding the
manipulator at 9.12. The
guests include Michael
Brandon.
9.25 **Thames news headlines**.
9.30 **For Schools: Waves and**
beaches. For Geography A-
level students. 9.52 Maths: the
number 14. 10.04 Blindness
and medicine. 10.21 Vase and
Pots. 10.33 Episode four of the
Caucasian Chalk Circle. 11.00
Episode two of the three-part
drama, Interference. 11.17
Children prepare for an outing.
11.34 Why inflation rises fast
and fall.
12.00 **Orn and Cheep**. Puppet
series about a small bird and a
worm. 12.10 Orn Backyard.
12.30 Johnnie Limited. Local
authorities and how their
partnerships with the private
sector can help create jobs.
1.00 **News at One** with Leonard
Parkin. 1.20 Thames news.
1.50 A Country Practice.
2.30 **Something to Treasure**. A
dramatised production in
antiques. 3.00 Take the High
Road. Now that Mrs Mack has
returned to the village.
3.25 **Thames news headlines**.
3.30 Sons and Daughters.
4.00 **Orn and Cheep**. A repeat of
the programme shown at
noon. 4.10 Doris. Cartoon
adventures of a cat (r). 4.20
Talking Animal. Andrea Arnold
and David Taylor reveal the
secrets of hedgehogs (Oracle).
4.45 **Hold Tight** as Janette
Beverley and Bob Carolees
join a group of Guides
competing against a team of
Scouts in an abseiling
competition.
5.15 **Blockbusters**.
5.45 **News with Michael Nicolson**.
6.00 **Thames news**.
6.25 **Help Viv Taylor** Gee with
news of the recently published
fact pack produced by the
London Homecoming Group.
6.35 **Crossroads**. Adam and Jill call
a truce.
7.00 **Where There's Life...** The
last programme of the series
and Dr William Stoppard asks
a studio audience how they
cope with their own
experiences of ill health.
7.30 **Coronation Street**. Gail is
a willing listener when Ivy needs
someone to talk to (Oracle).
8.00 **Fresh Fields**. Sonia reads
Hester's hand and forecasts
money, travel and a secret
admirer.
8.30 **The Brothers McGreggor**.
Comedy series about two
brothers who run a second-
hand car lot in Liverpool
(Oracle).
9.00 **Wander Waiting for Goddard**.
The fragile friendship between
Terry and Arthur is near
breaking point as Arthur
forcibly looks after an
eccentric old man who Arthur
has been inheriting a fortune.
Last in the series (Oracle).
10.00 **News at Ten** with Alastair
Burnet and Maryn Lewis.
10.30 **Good Enough to Eat?** An
examination into the force
feeding and hormone injecting
of British farm animals.
11.30 **Film: Streetwise '78** (1983)
starring Griffith. A woman
actress is murdered and a
solicitor hunts for the killer,
refusing to believe that the
woman's boyfriend is
responsible. Directed by John
Boorman.
12.30 **Night Thoughts**.

Glenda Jackson: Scenes from an
Execution (Radio 3, 7.30pm)

BBC 2

9.00 **Garber**. This week's edition
of the magazine programme
for Asian women includes a
discussion on men's fashion
and how a woman can advise
her companion on men's
fashion.
9.25 **Daytime at Two**. Jimmy Savile
with safety advice for children.
9.38 **Sports workshop 10.00**
For four and five-year-olds.
10.15 Maths: arithmetic
progressions and shuffles.
10.33 Maths: trigonometry.
11.00 **Does Mop the cat like**
babies? 11.17 Flowers that are
more than decorative. 11.40 A
drama about the dangers of
lung 12.10 Part three of the
evolution of the landscape.
12.35 **Lesson three of the swimming**
course of beginners. 1.00 For
adults studying O-level maths.
1.15 **Working in the rag trade**.
1.38 The mysterious
disappearance of dinosaurs.
2.00 **Honey**, and a school that
keeps bees. 2.15 Ways of
crossing the Pennines. 2.40
Living under Norman rule. 3.00
Cee-fax.
3.50 **Conservative Party**
Conference 85 Coverage of
the closing session of the
Winter Gardens, Blackpool.
5.00 **Cee-fax**.
5.30 **News Summary** with subtitles.
5.45 **Weather**.
5.55 **The Interview Game**. The fifth
and final programme in the
series and Dr Michael Argyle
examines Body Language.
6.00 **Film: Gunfighters of Casa**
Grande (1955) starring Alex
Nicol and Steve Rothenberg.
Western adventure about a
gang of rustlers planning to
steal several of the massive
herds owned by the cattlemen
of southern California.
Directed by Roy Rowlands.
7.30 **Cartoon Two**. The
Metamorphosis of Mr Samson,
based on the short story by
Franz Kafka and made by the
National Film Board of
Canada.
7.40 **Do They Mean Us?** Derek
Jackson continues his series
on how foreign television
networks portray the British.
with examples of the British
Royal Family and with the
English accent.
8.10 **For Britain and the Hell of It**.
The story of how Richard
Noble won back for Britain the
World Land-Speed record two
years ago at Black Rock,
Nevada (r).
9.00 **Film: Prisoner Without a**
Name. Ciarán Hinds as a member
(1983) starring Roy Scheider
and Liv Ullmann. A made-for-
television drama, based on
fact about the owner of an
influential Argentine
newspaper who was seized by
his country's secret police in
1977, tortured and imprisoned.
Directed by Linda Yaelen.
10.35 **Newsnight** includes a report
from the Conservative Party
Conference. 11.30 **Weather**.
Open University: Asian
Diseases, the English Disease.
Ends at 12.05.
11.55 **Night Thoughts**.

● **A NEW DEAL, A NEW REEL**
(Channel 4, 8.00pm) is the first
instalment of Victoria Wegg-
Prosser's 10-part history of the
March of Time, the pioneering
American news magazine that gave
a film to many a night out at the
cinema between 1935 and 1951.
The more conservative among us
might have doubts about the
artistic morality of inter-cutting the
real (newsreel footage) with the
faked (dramatised reconstructions, using
actors). But the unique feature of
The March of Time was the fact
that, during the 20 minutes it was
on the screen, nobody in the cinema
nodded off. Why we stayed sharply
awake is indicated in tonight's film. I
found it every bit as spine-tingling
as The March of Time itself, with
its dynamic reporting of Louis
Bergoff and his strike-breaking
organization, and its feature about

painter and the patron Doge - had
not been filled by such consummate
performers as Glenda Jackson and
Freddie Jones.
● **I applaud Radio 3's decision to**
re-schedule MIDWINTER CHOICE, the
listeners' Wednesday request
programme, from 7.05pm to
5.00pm. It makes a welcome change
from the pleasure, which fills
the 5.00 slot on the remaining
weekdays. The degree of pleasure I
derive from the programme owes
as much to the personality of the
presenter as to the choice of music.
One presenter has the infuriating
habit of asking the unlikely
question, "Beethoven, whose second piano
concerto was, was found of
coffee... which brings me to a work
by a composer who was born in
Brazil". If he goes on doing this, I
will name him.
Peter Davalle

CHOICE

On long wave, false VHF stereo
5.55 Shipping. 6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Prayer
For The Day.
6.30 Today incl 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News.
6.45 Business News. 6.55, 7.55
Weather. 7.30, 8.00 News. 7.55,
8.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the
Day.
8.45 Point of Departure written and
read by James Cameron (r) 9.15
Lester Weather. 7.30p.

CHANNEL 4

9.30 **Conference '85**. Gus
Macdonald and Peter Kellner
report on the proceedings at
the Winter Gardens.
Blackpool, the venue for the
Conservative Party
Conference. 12.30 Close.
2.30 **Conference '85 Further**
coverage of the proceedings in
Blackpool.
5.30 **Silents Please: Old San**
Francisco. Dolores Costello
and Warner Oland star in this
melodrama about the wicked
boss of the local San Francisco
underworld who plots to steal
a hacienda and the beautiful
daughter of the house. But his
plans are thwarted by the 1906
earthquake.
6.00 **The Betty White Show**. Joyce
is forced to spend the night in
the same bed as her ex-
husband when her mother-in-
law arrives in town unaware of
her new marital status. In
order not to shock the old lady
who has a heart condition
John and Joyce play the
happy married couple.
6.30 **A Love Affair With Nature**. Part
two of Edwin Mullins series
examines how British
artists have dealt with nature
and the countryside features
works by Woodton, Stubbs,
Landseer and Sutherland and
Barbara Hepworth's sculpture
group in St Ives, Cornwall
(Oracle).
7.00 **Channel Four news** with Peter
Sissons and Alastair Stewart.
7.50 **Comment**. This week's
political slot is filled by Stuart
Hofland. Labour MP for
Vauxhall. Weather.
8.00 **On the March**. Part one of a
new series tracing the history of
Time's cinema news magazine.
The March of Time.
(see Choice).
8.30 **Diverse Reporters**. A
Police Officer's Lot. Christine
Chapman argues that so much
police time is taken up by
picket line duty and city riots
that they do not have time to
catch ordinary criminals and
that this latter role should be
given to someone else.
9.00 **The Far Pavilions**. Episode
two and Andrew Lloyd
Casson's series on the
consumption of her love for
Ash, decides she must go
through with the marriage
service with the odious and
deceitful Rana in order to
protect her sister, Rana's
other bride (r).
11.00 **Book Four**. Christopher Hope
and Dag Jacobson talk to
Hermannes Lee about the
particular challenges they
have faced as white South
African writers about the
country of their birth.
11.30 **10 Minute TV**. Close Up. David
Gordon and Valda Setterfield
perform an intimate dance
duet, the first of three pieces
which Gordon has created for
his Pick-Up Company, which
makes its Sadler's Wells debut
this autumn.
11.40 **Jailed by the British**. The
second and final film about
how Britain treated her own
victims prisoners (r). Ends at
12.45.

7.20 **Your Move or Mine?** 58 Brecken
and Tom Ticker discover simpler
ways to buy a house.
7.45 **Anthony Hopkins** talking about
his new film.
8.15 **Landlord and Tenant**. Phone-in
which complements this
morning's programme on
security of tenure (r). 8.45
10.00 **News**. 10.15 **World Tonight**.
8.00 **Thirty-minute Theatre**. Clockwork
by Colin Marley, with Marley
read as the real character whose
one-man campaign for punctual
trains leads to an astonishing
conclusion (r).
8.30 **A League of Gentlemen**. Richard
Digance with songs and stories.
8.45 **News**. 8.55 **World Tonight**.
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Ministers rethink abolition of Serps

Continued from page 1

unexpectedly strong opposition to abolition.

Sir James Cleeves, the CBI president, said recently that the scheme should be "thrown on the bonfire" and in a speech in Blackpool last night Sir Ian Gilmour, the Tory former Cabinet minister, said the proposed abolition was widely seen as a "misplaced piece of ideology".

In his speech to the Conservative Party Conference which opened in Blackpool yesterday, Mr Gilmour made no direct mention of Serps, but made plain that the Government would study carefully the responses over pensions in the consultation process.

Government sources made clear later that the future of Serps, which would cost £24 billion a year by the year 2040 according to an independent study, is again for discussion. There will be a social security Bill in the new session of Parliament, but it was uncertain last night whether there would be proposals relating to Serps in it.

If Serps is retained it will be considerably changed to cut its final cost. Mr Fowler said it was neither realistic nor fair to plan for the pensions of tomorrow by "simply handing down a post-dated bill to our children".

It was also clear that if Serps is to stay there will be a strong drive to increase the number of individual private pensions.

The Minister also reaffirmed his determination to push through the other main features of his review.

He said that the real enemies of the welfare state were not those who promoted reform but those who sought to block it.

Sir Ian, speaking to the Child Poverty Action Group, said last night that Mr Fowler was right to claim that almost nobody now advocated that Serps should remain in its present form, but just about everybody also agreed that it should not be abolished.

The proposal was seen as a misplaced piece of ideology favouring the private sector at all costs and which would merely lead to many people paying more and getting less.

Jobless record, page 4
Pensions Special Report, page 15-20

The cruise that turned into a nightmare



Captain Gerardo de Rosa chatting with passengers on Sunday, the day before Palestinian guerrillas took over his ship.



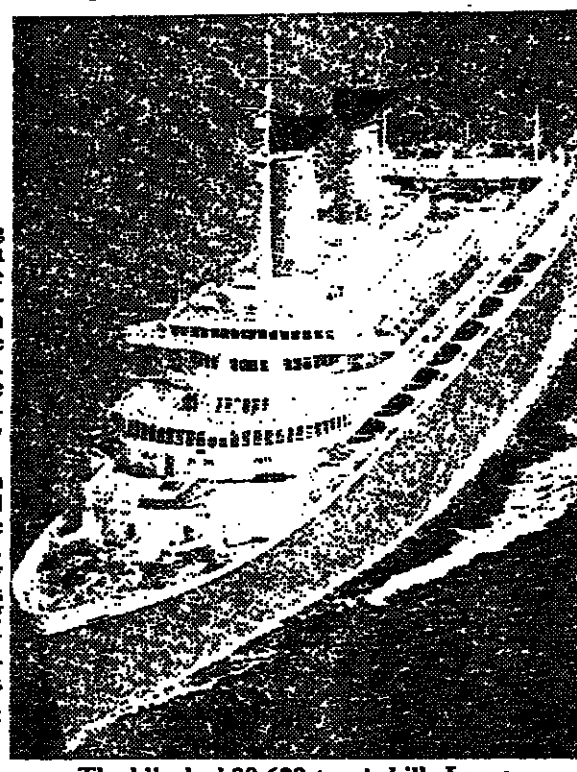
Ship's officer Rosario Nuzzo (left) and the captain's wife.

Two feared killed on hijack ship

Continued from page 1

coastline during the morning and sailed north to within one point eight miles of the Syrian coast, steamed westwards in the hot Mediterranean night. It was at 9.45 local time on Monday night that the ship, 30 miles off Egypt and en route to Port Said, reported laconically that it had been seized "by an armed group".

The hijackers, led by a man who called himself Omar, said that they had taken over the ship with automatic weapons. Over ship-to-shore radio, they spoke with Palestinian accents and at the top of the list of prisoners whose release they demanded was Samir Konaire, one of four Palestinians who savagely murdered an Israeli and his five-year-old daughter in 1979.



The hijacked 29,629-ton Achille Lauro

Letter from Peshawar

Bold outsiders play the great game

Pakistan has just arrested a motley assortment of journalists caught crossing the border back into the country's North West Frontier province from war-torn Afghanistan.

They included an American news agency chief, a German freelance photographer, a French journalist, and an English/Swedish freelance writer, grandsons of Axel Munster, who wrote *The Story of San Michele*.

The Pakistan authorities do occasionally catch journalists going the other way, into Afghanistan, but their crime is a comparatively simple matter of being in the tribal areas, which are closed to foreigners. This group was caught entering the country illegally, which is a federal offence.

Fortunately for them, however, former President Nixon was to visit the border the next day, and the authorities, fearing that awkward questions might have been asked, decided to drop the matter and returned their passports.

Despite risks like these, and despite the rather more dire risks faced once across the border, the flow of travellers seeking the inside story of the Afghanistan conflict is never ceasing.

It has in fact become the last place in the subcontinent in which the "great game" of Rudyard Kipling's Kim may still be played by adventure-seeking young men (and women) with a taste for dressing up, living hard and taking risks.

The travellers cross the border in the company of the guerrillas from one of the many rival groups of Mujahidin headquartered in and around Peshawar, capital of the frontier province.

The Mujahidin see, probably rightly, that these intrepid westerners will provide them the right sort of publicity calculated to generate the maximum return of funds for support of their resistance effort.

So they clothe them in the standard frontier dress of a dark cotton *shalwar* and *kumaz*, the baggy pants and long overshirt which has been adopted all over Pakistan, together with a Muslim cap and cloth turban. Beards are encouraged.

The women, of course, may be disguised completely in the all-concealing *burqa* which frontier women wear to prevent their feminine softness heating the blood of males to whom they are not married.

One young Englishman who tried to disguise his blond hair and beard under a *burqa* found that it did not prevent his being arrested on the way to the border. Not many frontier women are 6ft 11in tall.

Once safely across, the real problems begin. For a start, the journeys up craggy mountains and down dark defiles are mostly carried out on foot.

Oliver Roy, a French author who has just left Afghanistan after meeting again the celebrated Mujahidin commander, Ahmed Masood, in his mountain fastness above the Pajshir Valley, spent 40 days inside the country - 38 of them were spent walking for ten hours a day.

Food tends to be in fairly short supply among the Mujahidin, and the water often contains those bacteria that enforce frequent "comfort stops" on unaccustomed westerners. And of course the Russians, with their helicopter-borne rockets, their high level bombing, their landmines, provide other hazards.

Many of the travellers are bona fide journalists, but some are equally undoubtedly genuine spies. Like the "journalist" who recently confessed drunkenly to a colleague that he had spent the last three months inside Afghanistan counting the take-overs and landings at Shindand air base outside Herat.

Others may be messengers from Muslim fund-raising organizations, offering cash to individual Mujahidin bands. Still others are people who want to join the fight themselves.

One such gung-ho warrior was a Polish exile who joined the Mujahidin to kill as many Russians as he could. He died falling down a rock face. His grave, marked by a cross, which is unusual in this country, is inscribed, "A Polish Soldier."

Michael Hamlyn

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Princess of Wales visits youth and apprentice training facilities at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Bournemouth, Dorset, 11. and afterwards visits Gorseley Farm, Tynes, Cambridgeshire, 1.10. and the Guildhall, Cambridge, 2.10. In the evening, as Patron of Help the Aged, she will attend a reception for the Silver Jubilee National Committee at the Grosvenor Hotel, Princes St, EC2, 7.

Princess Anne, Chancellor of the University of London, opens a new course established by the Institute of

Child Health's Tropical Child Health Unit for Trainers and Supervisors of Community Rehabilitation Workers - Developing Countries, at Guilford St, WC1, 9. As Colonel-in-Chief, the Worcester and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, the Princess visits the 1st Battalion at Warminster, Wiltshire, 11.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as President of the London region of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, attends the annual general meeting of the WRVS (London NE Area) at Walthamstow Assembly Hall, Forest Rd, Walthamstow, 2.15. In the evening, as Patron of Asthma Research Council, she attends a dinner at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, W1, 8.30.

Last chance to see

Jewelry by Caroline Broadhead; Constructivist Clothes by Diana Hawkins; Constructivist Clothes by Ann Sutton; Screenprints by Car Brentnanger; all at the Oxford Gallery, High Street, Oxford; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends today).

Music

Festival organ recital by Dr Allan Wicks, St Edward the Confessor, Market Place, Remford, 1.45. Piano recital by Janusz Piotrowski Stechley, Ribston Hall School, Gloucester, 7.30.

Concert by the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble, Rainey Endowed School, Magherfield, 8.

Recital by students from Colchester Institute's School of Music, Colchester Library, 1.45.

Concert by the Guildhall String Ensemble, Rhodes Hall, Bishops Cleeve, 8.

West of England Organ Festival: organ recital by Michael Tissier, Bath Abbey, 8.

Organ recital by Thomas Trotter, Birmingham Town Hall, 1.

Concert by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Congress Theatre, Eastbourne, 7.30.

Concert by the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Talks, lectures

Canterbury Festival: history of pasta and pasta making by Valentina Harris, Old Synagogue, Canterbury, 8.

Halley's Comet, past, present and future by Dr David W. Hughes, Large Lecture Theatre, Physics Poynting Building, Birmingham University, 11.

Largest trees in the world by Andy Eavis, Ulster Museum, Botanic Avenue, Belfast, 7.30.

Exhibitions in progress

"Land Trawling" by Laim Hanley: graffiti and slip-trimmed earthenware by Mary Wondrusch; "Intracacies of Landscape" by Amanda Richardson; "Flowers" by Evelyn Fuller; Photographs by Crispin Wood; all at the Abbot Hall Art Gallery and Museum of Lakeland Life and Industry, Kendal, Cumbria; Mon to Fri 10.30 to 5; Sat and Sun 2 to 5 (ends Oct 27).

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New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week: Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Paintings in Soviet Museums, edited by Anna Barskaya, Eugenia Georgievskaya and Marina Bessonova (Phaidon, £25). Gwen John, by Mary Tatham (Scolar Press, £20). Lorenzo De Ponte, the life and times of Mozart's librettist, by Sheila Hodges (Grafton, £12.95). *Martini Book XI, a Commentary*, by N. M. Kay (Duckworth, £25). *More Letters of Oscar Wilde*, edited by Rupert Hart Davis (John Murray, £12.50). *A Journalist's Odyssey*, by Patrick O'Donovan (Elandine Publishing, £5.95). *The Diary of Beatrice Webb*, volume four 1924-1943, the Wheel of Life, edited by Norman and Jeanne MacKenzie (Virago, £22). *The Hogarth Letters*, introduced by Hermione Lee (Chatto & Windus, £9.95). *The Oxford Book of Late Medieval Verse and Prose*, edited by Douglas Gray (Oxford, £15). *The Partisan and its Sculptures*, by John Boardman and David Finn (Thames & Hudson, £25).

The papers

The Star says it makes no apology for returning to the subject of unemployment at Tory conference time. "It is quite the biggest social and economic evil confronting Britain today, because, directly or indirectly, it affects every man, woman and child," it comments. "Jobs, jobs, jobs and how to create them should be the top priority for every Cabinet minister. If this government is to stand the slightest chance of re-election." But, it adds, sadly, that obvious truth appears to have slipped by Norman